

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXIII.]

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BIRTH.

On May 27th, at Shanghai, the wife of THEODORE OGLE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE

On May 26th, at Hankow, GEORGE S. MUEL FOSTER KEMP, of Swaffham, Norfolk, to MABEL ROSCORLA, of St. Austell, Cornwall.

DEATHS.

On May 29th, at Shanghai, W. FRANK, late Chief Officer of the s.s. *Zephyros*.

On May 29th, at Shanghai, DAVID SINCLAIR, late 2nd Officer, P. S. *Kiangkwan*, aged 28 years.

On May 29th, at Shanghai, GEORGE HERNESIDE TAYLOR, aged 51 years.

On May 30th, at Shanghai, ARTHUR BARRADAS, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. BARRADAS, aged 22 years.

At Shanghai, MORNA CHRISTINE, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. V. DRUMMOND, aged 20 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of May 8th arrived, per the s.s. *Zieten*, on Tuesday, the 5th instant; and the French Mail of May 11th is expected to arrive, per the s.s. *Tourane*, sometime to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Taiwan may soon be declared a free port, according to native reports.

Calcutta is raising a new loan of nineteen lakhs, to cover a municipal deficit.

Prince Tai Chun is endeavouring to raise capital and promote waterworks in Peking.

Arrangements have been made for a university for Indo-China to be erected at Hanoi.

A Chinaman suffering from plague committed suicide at West Point on Saturday afternoon by throwing himself from the verandah of the district hospital to the street below, being killed instantly.

White ants are in flight just now; and invading our houses. Wings may be seen here and there where they have fallen.

The Argentine training ship *President Sarmiento* has arrived at Shanghai. This is her second visit to the Far East since 1898.

We are courteously informed by the agent of the Netherlands Trading Society that this Bank's dividend for the year 1905 has been declared at 15 per cent.

A Vladivostok report to the *Jiji* says that the Russian Government has decided to pay 7,500,000 roubles to the Chinese who were residing in Vladivostok during the disturbances after the war.

A Peking report states that the Waiwupu has addressed dispatches to the foreign Ministers to the effect that in future no one will be allowed to trade in Tibet unless he has already been established in that country.

Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. courteously inform us that they are in receipt of telegraphic advices that the Oriental Consolidated Gold Mining Co., Ltd., have declared an interim dividend of fifty cents gold per share.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint, provisionally and subject to His Majesty's pleasure, Mr. W. J. Gresson to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council in succession to Mr. C. W. Dickson, resigned.

The professional "walkers round the world" are growing numerous. There is another in the Far East at present. It is distinctly curious that these round-the-world pedestrians should invariably arrive by steamer, even at mainland ports.

The Lawn Tennis Championship was decided at the Hongkong Cricket Club ground on June 2nd, when the finalists, Mr. H. F. C. Master and Mr. T. B. Norrie, played a fairly keen game, which, as expected, resulted in the victory of the latter.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint, provisionally and subject to His Majesty's pleasure, the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett to be an unofficial member of the Executive Council in succession to Mr. C. W. Dickson, resigned.

H.E. Chao Erh-sen, Tartar General of Mukden, has telegraphed to the Waiwupu the torying of the tax by Japan on Chinese lumber merchants on the right bank of the Yalu is a breach of their Treaty, and urging that a protest be presented.

The Waiwupu has been informed by the Tartar General of Fengtien, H. E. Chao Erh-sen, that the Japanese troops hitherto stationed at Heinmintuu and neighbourhood have been withdrawn, and the place is now garrisoned entirely by Chinese.

A curious accident was witnessed in Des Vœux Road on the 3rd June. A truck laden with mineral waters, was standing outside Watson's Manufactory, and one of the bottles burst. A fragment struck an old woman sitting on the pavement twenty yards off, inflicting a gash on her forehead.

Mr. F. Knight Gregson, Chairman of the Chinkiang Municipal Council, has resigned because (he states) his colleagues and the Acting Consul have been acting unconstitutionally. Ineligible votes have been admitted, to the prejudice of land-renters, and Council affairs are divulged in the interest of individuals who have too much influence.

Three men of the Sherwood Foresters, two privates and a drummer, stationed at Singapore, have been sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment for highway robbery from a Chinaman. One of them had dropped his helmet when running away.

Let Mr. Winston Churchill be informed at once of the following item of Rangoon police news: "A Chinaman named Ah Chin was sentenced to twenty lashes by the Magistrate of the Eastern Division yesterday on conviction of having stolen brass taps from a house under construction in Barr Street. The accused was arrested by the durwan in charge, and the stolen property found on him."

Local journals in Indo-China anticipate "Yankee" competition there, and comment on the formation of an association for making known American goods. Inspired by the German method which has been so successful, the Americans have constructed a special ship for the presentation of American products. This ship has commenced its tour of the world, Indo-China being included in the itinerary.

A new French type of ricksha is now to be seen on the Bangkok streets. They are neatly made, with rubber-tired wheels, and smart cushions, hood and apron. The change is welcome, since, in the words of a Bangkok exchange, the Siamese capital has for years been the dumping ground for Singapore and Hongkong "cast offs." But Mr. Edward Osborne would say that Hongkong rickshas are never cast off. Their career is supposed to be more like that of the "wonderful one-horse shay."

There are at present two lines of tramways working in French Indo-China, viz. that through Ha oi and its suburbs and the lines from Nam Giang to Ksat. Two other lines are being started, one from Hanoi to Thai-Nguyen and another from the same town to Son ay. In Cochinchina the working lines are four, viz. (1) From Saigon to Cholon (upper road), (2) from Saigon to Cholon (lower road), (3) from Saigon to Gonvay, and (4) from Saigon to Hoc Mon. In Annam one line is in process of construction from Tourane to Fal-lo.

Information reached the Colony on June 2nd that the British steamer *Sanui* was fired on by Chinese from the shore while she was steaming out of Samshui harbour on Friday morning, and what makes the occurrence all the more daring is that H. M. S. *Robin* was within sight. One of the shots entered the first-class Chinese saloon, while another bullet struck the skylight and smashed the glass. A comrade in the saloon was slightly injured by the fragments. The *Sanui* returned to the harbour with the *Robin*, but though inquiries were made nothing could be learned of the perpetrators of the outrage.

An informal meeting of the shareholders in the Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited, was held at Shanghai on May 29th. The Chairman, Mr. W. V. Drummond, explained the directors' scheme for selling the Kalampong Estate and gave a full account of the present condition and prospects of the company's affairs. The following resolution was adopted unanimously: "That this meeting approves of the directors' proposal to sell the Kalampong Estate to a company to be formed for the purpose of purchasing it and of developing it in the best advantage with the cultivation of rubber or other products."

SAN FRANCISCO AND THE IRON MARKET.

(Daily Press, 2nd June.)

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good; and now that the more acute sufferings of the victims of the disaster at San Francisco have been alleviated, the commercial world is waking to a consciousness of the probable sequel. It is obvious that the rebuilding of such a large and important city must create a demand in various markets; and apparently such demand will be more than welcome. One trade for which there is provided "an example of good springing out of evil" is the iron trade, about which the commercial supplement of the *Times* has received a very interesting contribution. To begin with, it appears that its recent startling experiences have not put San Francisco out of conceit with steel-frame buildings; "all the testimony has been in favour of the steel framing which of late years has replaced the wood and adobe buildings formerly almost universal in California." It is even possible that enthusiasm has gone too far, and that too much has been claimed for this style of architecture, as affected by earthquake and fire. That is not the point, however; if San Francisco has faith in it, as we are told, then it is certain that San Francisco will proceed to re-construction with steel. The iron market is already influenced by this "coming great call for steel", although there are some who attribute the rising prices to the American coal crisis recently reported. Naturally, a coal strike or lockout would cause the closing of blasting works, and possibly increase the demand for crude iron outside America; but that does not convince the authorities that the recent upward tendency was caused by anything other than the certain demand at the Californian port. "The shipment of pig iron to San Francisco from British ports is a matter of regular practice year by year, for we can deliver pig iron by water in California at a lower freight-cost than smelters in the eastern or southern States can deliver by rail. Californian orders for British pig iron will not be the creation of the San Francisco disaster, but it is noteworthy that cable messages have already been received pressing for prompt shipment of parcels bought for that market long before the earthquake." It will be, however, steel prepared for structural purposes that San Francisco will require; and British manufacturers are asking if the American mills can turn out all that will be wanted, as fast as it is wanted. They are known to be working full time now to meet contracts already made, which contracts are not likely to be waived or held over while San Francisco is being rebuilt. Insurance claims are already being settled, and it will be only characteristic of San Francisco to desire to see a new city rise as quickly as the old. In these circumstances it is scarcely profitable to consider what the Government may or may not do to benefit San Francisco and to help its own industrial firms to provide the necessities. It is considered likely that many orders will go to Great Britain, and that Congress will rebate the duties on finished-steel imported direct into San Francisco, for a period to be fixed. Germany is not in a position to supply sufficient "structural" steel, and her share of orders is expected to depend largely on whether the builders will be satisfied with what is called "basic" steel. British builders have a prejudice against that form, but it appears that bridge builders in America who formerly stipulated against it have nowadays changed their minds. Probably all iron

districts will benefit, directly or indirectly. Indeed, it is safe to predict that they must, even if recent expectations turn out to have been based on exaggerated ideas of the demand.

"WIRELESS" GOVERNMENT.

(Daily Press, 4th June.)

Upon all general considerations, it must be admitted that the increased facilities for telegraphic communication in the present day are a very great advantage; and yet upon certain special grounds it may seem a matter for regret that the telegraph affords a means of interference by Home Government in local matters at a distance, which, as some will think, fortunately, did not exist in former times. The good old days when local disturbances were of necessity settled entirely upon a local basis, and for the most part satisfactorily, have passed away, and now the slightest trouble that may arise has to be reported to the Home Government, and dealt with according to their dictates. This of course has its advantages in many directions. It enables the authorities at home to prevent any precipitate action which may involve them in responsibilities which they would rather not incur, and to check what appears to them the too energetic action of their representative abroad, who may not be inclined to enter upon nice discriminations when the lives or property of their nationals are involved. Action such as that of Admiral KEPPEL, when he went of his own motion with a file of marines and released a British prisoner, who, he considered, was unjustly incarcerated at Macao, would be impossible in the present day; and yet it cannot be denied that such prompt measures are as often the means of preventing as of precipitating a difficulty. In these more regular times there would in such a case be a mass of diplomatic representations on such a subject, and the likelihood would be that the patient would die while the doctors were consulting. A conclusion might be arrived at eminently in accordance with the eternal fitness of things, but at the same time possibly in no way adapted to meet the particular circumstances of the case, which those on the spot, if left to decide on their own course, might deal with much more effectively. Matters in the old "gunboat" days were no doubt at times settled in a somewhat rough and ready way, but it may be questioned whether on the whole they were not dealt with quite as satisfactorily as under the more elaborate conditions of the present day.

One very important bearing of the extension of telegraphic communication is the effect which it will in time produce in China itself, and which effect has indeed been to some extent already brought about. The natural result of improved means of inter-communication is a centralisation of government. The weakness of China has been chiefly due to the fact that the authorities at the capital have been too far removed from the provincial centres to be able to exercise the necessary control over them. Curiously enough this is a difficulty which the present dynasty deliberately made for itself. In its desire to place the supreme authority where it would be less likely to be assailed by any rebellious force, it chose Peking as the capital in place of the old capital city of Nanking. As time has gone on, this policy, like many other devices of the same character, has brought about the very difficulty which it was intended to avert. The Central Government has been too far off to be in touch with the rest of the Empire, or even to maintain due influence over the provincial magnates;

and the result has been the upgrowth of a system confining a maximum of outward subserviency with a minimum of loyal and ready obedience. The provincial authorities have found it easy with ample time at their disposal, to represent matters at the capital in one way while they are working in a totally different direction for their own ends. In this way they have contrived to maintain something like supreme authority within the limits of their jurisdiction—and by degrees the power of the central authorities, though absolute in theory, came to have little influence upon many of them. This fact has always been a source of trouble to foreign nations, who are obliged upon the accepted grounds of international relations to deal only with the high authorities, with very disappointing results in many instances. So far did this go that it became an almost recognised principle that in any case in which foreign interests were involved, or in which foreigners sought redress, the nation concerned had, as it were, to obtain from the Imperial authorities at Peking a licence to take action on the spot itself as best it could. The gunboat had to appear in sight of the local or provincial authorities concerned before any steps would be taken to afford redress or to put down any anti-foreign agitation. This state of things indeed was the true justification of the gunboat policy, and was, it is needless to say, little understood by the general public at home, and was consequently often inveighed against very unjustly.

The extension of telegraphic communication in China will tend to modify this state of things and to make it less easy for the Peking officials to shuffle off responsibility in this manner. Instead of a report being asked for, and a tardy account sent in after the lapse of weeks or perhaps months to the capital, telegraphic explanation can now be demanded with such speed as to allow but little opportunity of altering the true bearing of the facts, as can be easily done, when there is time to falsify those that exist and invent others that may be required for a plausible excuse. This change in the relations of the capital to the provincial officials is important, not only in regard to foreign relations, but also in connection with the general internal administration of the country. There is, under existing conditions, an opportunity for administrative reform in China which has not hitherto existed. The problem of centralisation is a difficult one, and even with the increased facilities for carrying it out, it would not be wise to be too sanguine as to its success; but with the telegraph at her disposal, there is at least room to hope that some improvement may be effected, and that one cause of China's inherent weakness and of the difficulties in dealing with her diplomatically will be by degrees modified or removed, in a manner which she has little anticipated.

NOVEL THEORY OF TIDES.

(Daily Press, 5th June.)

Some time ago [May 24th] we noticed the publication of a new theory of the universe, in which suggestions as interesting as they were bold were made. It will be seen that on the subject of tides, to which we promised to return, the Rev. J. COZAND, an equally unconventional and quite as ingenious. The orthodox belief that the attraction of the moon is one of the chief factors in the production of the tides, and that the influence of the sun is secondary, because of its great distance from the earth, is, we are now told, quite erroneous. Proof by

figures is not withheld. "The moon draws the earth with a force equal to 20,490,000,000,000,000 tons approximately, while the sun's mass, notwithstanding its great distance from the earth, attracts it with a force of 3,462,000,000,000,000,000 tons. In these numbers the sun's attraction of the earth is shown to be 169 times that of the moon." It therefore follows, "as the night the day", that "if the moon's force raises the tides to a height of six or seven feet the sun should draw the sea over a mountain one-fifth of a mile high". The author of this truly amazing demonstration begs us to withdraw our minds from the Newtonian theory of attraction; and to start on the assumption that the surface of the sea is pushed, instead of pulled, by the sun. There is expansive force in the sun's rays: we have only to think of them pushing at the sea to see the part free from such pressure rising. Assisted by the motion of the earth, the sun pushes our tides; the constant revolution of the earth from west to east inclines the sea water to flow westward, "because it is difficult for the water to maintain a momentum equal to that of the solid earth". COLUMBUS noticed that the ocean current seemed to follow the sun. "By the law of reaction there is an under-current formed which finds its way towards the eastern coast." The atmospheric pressure is increased and decreased at regular intervals by the alternate heating and cooling of the surface of the globe; and this oscillating pressure "acts like the touch of a hand on a cradle", increasing the inclination of the ocean to move back and forth between east and west. The sun passing over the Pacific causes a tide on the coast of Asia: the return tide is the reaction, the swing of the pendulum. "If the sea could all act together the return tide should reach the American coast by the time the sun would arrive the following morning, and be ready to be assisted to come west again along with the sun." The author realises in that case that there would be in any given place only one tide a day, and points out that there are a few such places on the earth. But the sea is too large for simultaneous action, and "before the sun has reached the shores of Japan, the eastern half of the ocean has broken loose and is on its return journey to California. The polar currents known to exist, he adds, divide the sea in two, setting up a sort of wall between east and west. Here we are less able to follow his reasoning; but he plunges boldly to the triumphant result: "This produces two tides, one in the east and the other in the west, coming in and going out pretty much at the same time." One of these tides he calls, for convenience, the sun-tide, and the other he calls the momentum-tide. And this is how they behave. "The sun starts a tide up in the ocean at two a.m., six hours from the coast, and gets it into Tokyo Bay at eight a.m. It will then recede to the starting point in mid-ocean in six hours and get back here (Tokyo) in some twelve hours from the time it left, and go back to sea in the night, to be brought in again the following morning. If the water travelled as fast as the sun, what I have described would be the action, but friction retards the progress of the water and it arrives in Tokyo Bay about thirty-two minutes later each morning. In the course of twelve days the tide has lost six hours. This will make the momentum-tide be in Tokyo Bay when the sun arrives in mid-ocean at the point where the tide should be started towards the coast. The outgoing momentum-tide and the incoming sun-tide meet two or three hours off the coast and

both are badly levelled by the collision. A day or two later the sun-tide gets the ascendancy and we have the two tides merged into one. Then there become the sun-tide out of which arises a new momentum-tide. When the two tides combine on the coast there is what is known as 'spring tide'. This occurs about once a fortnight, corresponding in point of time with the number of days there are between new moon and full moon. About midway between the occurrences of 'spring tide' is what is called 'neap tide'. The tide is then low, being the result of a slight interruption because of the momentum-tide being impeded by the formation of a new sun-tide which acts in opposition to it. The 'neap tide' also occurs fortnightly, and for this reason has been supposed to be caused by the first quarter and the third quarter of the moon, just as the new moon and the full moon have been supposed to cause the 'spring tide'. There is a touch of assurance about these tenses, "has been" and "have been", which promises that the new GALILEO will not easily recant his original beliefs.

KIAOCHAU CUSTOMS.

(Daily Press, 8th June.)

So very seldom has the London Times anything good to say of Germany, especially of Germans as colonists, that extra interest must be attached to an article in its commercial supplement of May 7th, which arrived, somewhat appropriately, by the German mail yesterday. In this article Taingtau is held up as an object lesson worthy of Hongkong's most careful attention. The writer, who hails from Shanghai, opens as follows: "In China where territory is held under various tenures by foreign Powers, the problem has been to reconcile the commercial and municipal freedom demanded for the inhabitants of the foreign possession with the rights of the original owner, the ceding Power, over the adjacent territory. This problem has been solved experimentally for the German colony of Kiaochau in a way that promised well for its future development, while at the same time the rights of China seem to have been sufficiently safeguarded in the protection given to its legitimate revenue." Pointing out how at Hongkong the Chinese authorities discovered early that colonial free trade seemed to mean a good deal of smuggling, and had to take strong measures, he very kindly puts in a word for a more tolerant verdict upon Hongkong merchants than they have hitherto been given. The actual smugglers, he says, were Chinese; it was not the pidgin of the foreign vendor to find out what the Chinese purchaser intended to do with the goods. The Government, also, has not been altogether negligent with regard to illicit trade in opium and arms; but no other help is given to the Chinese revenue authorities. The result of the present arrangement, by which the leased area extends to "high water mark on the further shore of all bodies of water, whether streams or bays", is to make Hongkong a smugglers' paradise. A reference to leased territories having no "desire to injure the revenue of the lessor" may be regarded as invidious, although it was probably only due to the style of composition; but it is followed by the suggestion that the Russians, British, and French, at Port Arthur, Weihaiwei, and Kwangchowwan respectively, have hampered necessary customs work by their scrupulous devotion to the idea of absolutely unrestricted trade. The point of view is evidently different to that held by merchants

who have suffered by *licit* abuses. To come to the main point, "the Germans have recognised that illicit trade is an unstable foundation on which to establish a colony, showing themselves in this wiser and better colonists than their three rivals; or even, it is to be feared, than the new Japanese occupants of Port Arthur and Dalny". We can imagine some of the guessing that will follow as to the identity of the writer who could persuade the "Thunderer" to sponsor such a compliment. There is no getting away from the implication that Great Britain and the other Powers have been guilty of sins both of commission and omission, in the statement following, that "instead of holding the Chinese revenue authorities at arm's length, and even impeding the legitimate performance of their functions on their own side of the boundary, they have invited the Customs into Kiaochau itself". From April 1st last China was granted full revenue control, subject to a small "free area", delimited with an eye to Customs convenience, to be treated on the footing of a huge bonded warehouse. The Customs revenues contribute, as we have previously noted, twenty per cent. of the net import duties towards the German colonial expenses. Hongkong is not concerned with this worthy example of colonial statesmanship, being on quite another footing; unless it be with regard to its New Territory. The hinterland trade with Weihaiwei is as yet very small; and it looks as though that place were included among the other leased territories whose "non-success" is based on illicit traffic. Hongkong appears to be definitely embraced, however, by a concluding allusion to German "fiscal conditions which, while not perfect, were still more advanced than those prevailing in any other cession or lease".

THE PROPOSED ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

(Daily Press, 7th June.)

That an understanding with Russia is eminently desirable, for Russia, no one with any political prescience can for a moment doubt; that it will at all tend to bring about any amelioration of the present tension between the two countries is more than anyone with a knowledge of the present condition of that country can believe. It may be that a large proportion of the inhabitants of Russia are quite as desirous as the ordinary Englishman for some sort of a working agreement that would be effective in bringing about closer arrangements, and would sincerely welcome any feasible scheme that would afford some relief to the present unbearable condition of the empire; but as Russia stands, her Government does not exist for the benefit of the country, but merely for the private gain of a few individuals who have contrived to get possession of the reins; and have few qualms of conscience as to how they keep them, provided that by any means they can continue to hold them. There are in fact as many parties in Russia as there are statesmen, each working for its own aims, and each utterly regardless of engagements entered into by its neighbours, unless it should be for its momentary advantage to pretend to respect them. Indeed, in this respect Russia is not altogether unlike England at the present moment, where it has been professedly a matter of momentary policy whether so solemn an engagement as that entered into by the late Government with France should be permitted to become a matter of open debate, and that the

country required a distinct understanding that in respect of its engagements abroad the agreements of its predecessors should be respected. How in affairs connected with her colonies the engagements entered into by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN are regarded by his successor, Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL, may serve as an object lesson even for a Russian statesman, but for the nation at large they seem to portend a distinct lowering of the former prestige of a nation whose boast has been that for good or evil an engagement once entered into was always to be held a sacred thing, and one outside the limits of discussion.

Notoriously the contrary has ever been the rule with Russia; the Foreign Office had power, it is true, to enter into solemn treaties, and the Tsar as Autocrat had full power to ratify. But the weakness of the treaty making power became at once apparent when it had to be put in practice. The army had always ideas of its own, quite outside the schemes of the civil Government, and the latter had its own views as to what was necessary for its own existence quite beyond and often contrary to those dear to the Tsar himself. It does not need a prolonged search in the records of the British Foreign Office to discover the numberless instances in which engagements have been given to refrain from encroachments in Asia and South Europe, which were simply ignored the next day, and generally without remonstrance from headquarters. The numerous promises made in 1903 to evacuate Newchwang are only a single case in point. The very evident intention to totally ignore the Treaty of Portland, almost before its ink is dry, is but another example of the same absence of any effectual system of control.

Now if it be self-evident that it requires two to make a quarrel, it is no less undeniably true that it needs two to make an agreement, and that if one of the parties be incapable of fulfilling its part of the engagement, the agreement is a positive hamper to the party entering it with the intention of carrying it through. It was a wise enough remark made the other day by a French statesman to propose the Anglo-French convention that a treaty of its nature demanded some concession on both sides. The danger in the present case is that the concessions will be altogether on the one side, and that on the other will be vague promises beyond the power of Russia, or rather the treaty making power of Russia, to fulfil. Notoriously the British Foreign Office is so constituted that it is one of its most usual weaknesses to rush into engagements the bearing of which it does not comprehend. This is an old story, and inevitable when the Secretary of State is selected, not for his knowledge of foreign affairs, but mainly for his political influence and opinions; and although it may be freely acknowledged that compared with his colleagues Sir EDWARD GREY stands at an almost infinite height over his colleagues, it is no secret that his office is not by any means unhampered. It has been announced that the projected agreement includes such extremely technical matters as the mutual relations of the two countries with Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan and China. Unfortunately an engagement in respect to all these matters on the part of Great Britain is possible; but in the present position of affairs in Russia it is equally possible on her side? There can be no doubt as to the answer which could be given by any well informed and impartial statesman. Yet this is the dilemma into which an inexperienced and, as far as many of its constituents are concerned, wrong-headed

Government is blindly plunging. To add to the difficulties of the case we learn that China has just come to an understanding with Russia, and that this has some concern with Tibet. Now almost accidentally Great Britain found that five years ago Russia had manoeuvred a hostile intrigue with Tibet, of which this same Chinese Government must have been conscious, but of which it did not give any inkling. We know that in spite of Britain's distinct understanding with Tibet, Russia is at the present moment nothing abashed seeking to get up such another intrigue with the DALAI LAMA. The British Foreign Office appears to be ignorant of these facts, and of the engagements already entered into between China and Russia on this very subject. Of course it is open to Russia by and bye to plead that these engagements were already entered into at the time of her understanding with Great Britain, and therefore must stand in spite of all stipulations to the contrary made previously. This is only a single example of the entanglements which must turn up in a one-sided agreement such as the present British Government is seeking to spring on the nation.

But is there any need for an agreement which no one believes can be effective in restraining Russia's hand? Russia is perfectly aware of British requirements, and does not need any explanation whatever on the subject; she is besides not given to provoking a needless war, and understands very well that all her advances have been made hitherto by taking advantage of diplomatic errors on the part of her opponents. Under the circumstances it is little short of the height of folly to place in her hands the very weapon that she is most skilled in wielding. In fact Russia could not desire anything more in consonance with her dearest wishes than an alliance with England.

SOUTH CHINA TRADE INDICATIONS.

(Daily Press, 8th June.)

There is a good deal that has interest for South China in No. 149 of the *Customs Gazette*, covering the first quarter of the current year. The imports recorded at Kowloon seem to show a general falling off, if the figures be actually glanced over; but the perhaps unconventional method of lumping together piculs and pieces shows that there was actually a satisfactory increase of business to compare with the corresponding quarter of last year. Opium imports were slightly greater, a trifling decrease of Patna being more than covered by an increase of Malwa. On the same rough reckoning, cotton goods passed through in considerably less quantities; the falling off was in English pieces and Japanese yards; dyed shirtings and Indian cotton yarn were appreciably more popular. The fall in Japanese cotton cloth was considerably over four thousand yards. Woollens and worsted yarn reverted to 1904 figures, the quantity exported in the earlier months of last year having been an extra one. The import of metals of all sorts for the quarter was nearly five thousand piculs less. With the exception of cattle and pigs, shoes and boots, and brown sugar, native exports generally showed a truly remarkable increase. The quarterly figures for silk and cotton footwear, 147,979 pairs in 1904, 77,613 in 1905, and only 51,075 pairs this last quarter, appear to make a dwindling industry. In the case of exported sugar, the decrease scarcely means much, as the figures last year were quite

abnormal. To mention the increases would mean giving practically the whole list, from ashes to wood-poles. Timber exports of all kinds, by the way, showed remarkable development. It is perhaps of interest to note that the export of tea almost doubled itself, the respective quarterly out-turns being:—1905, black tea, 3,414; green, 20; and stalk, 130 piculs. 1906, black, 6,420; green, 147; and stalk, 218 piculs. There were no re-exports; and the total revenue collections show a steady, persistent increase, the figures for this quarter of 1906 being nearly six thousand taels better than in 1905.

Lappa's figures are less uniform. Applying the same comprehensive totalisation, and ignoring native sundries, the imports for the first quarter of 1906 appear twenty-five or thirty per cent. more than in 1905. There were 546 piculs of Patna opium as against 379. Cotton imports show little change in the aggregate, one variety of English profiting at the expense of another, whites being more popular than greys; and Japanese cotton flannels apparently forging ahead. A feature of this district's imports was a big leap in woollens. Metal imports were just a thousand piculs less. Sumatra oil made big strides at the expense of American kerosene. Here also native exports were much bigger, the increase being fully twenty per cent. on former figures. Sugar is among the decreases, as also tea and tobacco. The Customs revenue at Lappa fluctuates more, apparently. It was seventeen thousand taels more than in 1905, while the 1905 figures were considerably less than those for the first quarter of 1904.

The quarterly report for Canton shows that the total shipping entering and clearing was about two hundred thousand tons less than in the same quarter of 1905. Opium imports rose from 2,551 piculs to 3,331 piculs, the increases being in Patna and native. The latter is finding a growing market, as the following (quarterly) figures show: 1903, 1 picul; 1904, 9.07 piculs; 1905, 135.28 piculs; 1906, 527.92 piculs. (Throughout these comments, we hope it is understood that where a year is mentioned, is meant the first quarter of that year.) Cotton pieces were imported in greater number (138,584 against 110,642), while Indian yarn fell from 19,245 piculs to 17,058 piculs. In this department it is worth noting how steadily cotton handkerchiefs appear to be gaining favour. The very progressive set of figures (indicating dozens) is: 1903, 12,222; 1904, 14,864; 1905, 28,665; and 1906, 27,418. All woollens (except a variety called "Spanish stripes") increased; metals fell away, with the exception of tinued plates (tinplate?), which was represented by 15,476 piculs against a previous 11,187 piculs. The boycott did not prevent a small increase of flour, although the improvement was nothing like former consistent augmentations. Apparently it is more efficacious where substitutes offer themselves, as in oil; American kerosene fell nearly fifty per cent., while Sumatra rose nearly two hundred thousand gallons. There was a very largely increased import of sugars.

Exports from Canton, to foreign countries and Chinese ports, not counting re-exports, show a net increase, the most notable features being fans, fireworks, and mats. The silk exports, lumped together, show a diminution of about two thousand piculs. This includes an increased export of steam flature silk of 8,071 piculs against 6,425 piculs; it was in waste or "refuse" that the decrease occurred. Exported sugar dropped from 26,000 odd piculs to four thousand

odd; but here again the movement of sugar in 1905 was quite abnormal. A little more tea than usual came down, but the average change is scarcely worth noting. Foreign goods going through to the interior show generous improvement all round. Cotton goods, not including Indian yarn, which fell from 2,546 piculs to 1,716, went through in much larger quantities, showing that the demand this year is still active. The increase in piece goods was well over seventeen thousand pieces. Woollens also figure well in the transit trade; while metals seem to have been less in demand. The customs revenue shows the usual increase.

At Kowloon shipping was more brisk than in the same period of last year. Imports show a wonderful improvement. For instance, of cotton goods, excluding the Japanese lines which are counted in yards, there were 31,119 pieces imported as against only 10,942 pieces in 1905. Indian yarn practically disappeared from this list. Metals were slightly scarcer. The import of white sugar seems to be growing more rapidly than any other. A remarkable feature of the exports was the three and a half million straw mats, whereas previous returns were always well under the one thousand pieces. Previous transit returns at this station were scanty, but the quantities of foreign goods going inland look quite respectable in the present returns.

Samshui statistics show increased imports of opium, piece goods and metals, and there is a net improvement in the import of foreign sundries. In exchange the outside world took much more mats and timber than usual. The transit trade, except for sundries, is not conspicuous. Wuchow alone continues to demand Indian yarn taking about a thousand piculs more than last year, when the figures for the quarter were 15,561 piculs. Metals imported were about a thousand piculs less. A fast growing import of paper fans is noted at this station; and the export of first class paper, curiously enough, continues to increase almost pro rata. Nearly ten thousand pieces of Hongkong dyed shirtings passed through for inland buyers; and over fifteen thousand piculs of Indian yarn.

EXCHEQUER PROBLEMS AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 9th June.)

Making ends meet, the chronic expression of a perpetually sordid struggle, is not a difficulty that faces only the wife of the working man. The last speech of His Excellency the Governor to the Legislative Council shows clearly that people in high places may share the very same worries that oppress her soul when her children want boots and clothes, while all the while she is thinking how far her income will meet the stern demands of rent and food. In the nature of things, children do not have the parental view of ways and means; and the constituents of a government, national, colonial, or municipal, are apt in their demands to think only of the seeming need of the moment. The child cries for a toy, the constituent for a luxury, when the parent or the government is at its wit's end to make revenue cover normal expenditure. We had better point out at once that this comparison may be carried too far. In the desiderata mentioned by the Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE there was nothing toylike, under ordinary circumstances. The very desirable improvement of our ricksha service need cost the Government nothing, beyond a little extra trouble for its servants. That is to say, with regard to insisting on their being

more strongly and comfortably built, and properly kept. There is nothing unreasonable in the stipulation for covers; Shanghai insists upon rain-aprons, and dirt is as damaging as rain. The pullers themselves may argue that heavier-built rickshas would mean cruelty to them; that point will doubtless not be overlooked by their friends. With regard to first-class rickshas, we do not suppose the Hon. Mr. OSBORNE meant that the Government itself should introduce rubber-tired rickshas; but rather that it should permit the higher fares that private speculation would insist upon for the use of such vehicles. As the inhabited area of the Colony continues to expand, extra markets become necessary; and doubtless the one at Tsim-tsa-tsi is as urgently required as any. The provision of a refuse burner is not at any time the acquisition of a mere toy. It is an excellent, economical, and eminently sensible method of dealing with rubbish; and in the case of a government with satisfactory revenues, and few other demands, it might be a matter to claim even urgency. With circumstances as explained by Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, it is obviously a matter that must wait its turn. With regard to his most important question, that relating to our subsidiary coinage, the Hon. Mr. OSBORNE did not ask for further expenditure. He asked a question to which we could foresee no possible answer but a plain "yes", as we little expected the statement that "the Government have made enquiries". Of whom? By whom? These are two queries which immediately suggest themselves, especially when we are told that "the only practical means . . . is to cease for the time to issue such coins", which others tell us are already insufficient to oust the Chinese subsidiary currency. If there be one subject upon which dogmatic opinions are improper, it is this one of coinage; and though we adopt our own theory empirically, we wish to avoid what in the Government itself we deprecate. Some people say there has been over-production; others say the contrary. Many people we have interrogated, who traffic largely with the smaller currency, assert that it is difficult in the ordinary way of trade to get hold of the colonial coins; others ask, why, if they be so scarce, are they at a discount? Discount is a mystery to be approached in fear and trembling by the layman: they who discount have ideas and principles all their own. Practical men like the Hon. Mr. OSBORNE and the Hon. Mr. HEWETT hold views diametrically opposed on this subject. We should be glad to know how the Government came to be "satisfied", as the Hon. COLONIAL TREASURER put it; by weight of evidence, or how?

Returning to the position at which we started, that of ways and means generally, we wonder if His Excellency the Governor, when he referred to the Opium Farm as the important source of income, took into account the grim possibilities of the recent anti-opium resolution of the British Parliament. We presume he did not; but if there be in the Colony any supporters of the agitators responsible for it, it is to be hoped they will remember the promised additional taxation; and reflect on the probable situation in case these good people manage to grant China an opium monopoly, which is what the "reform" really means.

The Shanghai Life Insurance Co., Ltd., has held its first annual meeting. During this its first year the business offered to the company amounted to Tls. 1,791,450, of which amount Tls. 1,526,730 was accepted and Tls. 264,720 declined or postponed. The shareholders expressed satisfaction.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 7th instant in the Council Chamber at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MAJOR SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General VILLIERS HATTON, C.B. (General Officer Commanding the Troops).

Hon. Mr. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY, K.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Captain L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. W. J. Gresson took the oath and assumed his seat as a member of the Council.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY by command of H.E. the Governor laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee No. 3 and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and this was agreed to.

QUESTIONS.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE asked the following questions standing in his name:—

1. Will the Government take steps to improve the ricksha service by—

(a) Requiring them to be more strongly built and provided with better springs.

(b) Instituting a monthly inspection.

(c) Making it a condition of the licence that every ricksha be provided with a clean white cover to the back and to the seat.

(d) Introducing first class rickshas (both for Victoria and Kowloon) similar to those at Saigon.

2. Will the Government make provision in the forthcoming Estimates for—

(a) A market at Tsim-tsa-tsi.

(b) A refuse burner.

3. Will the Government take steps to enquire what practical means can be adopted for re-establishing and maintaining the value of British subsidiary coinage on a par with the dollar.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, replying to the first question, said—The Government have under consideration the question of improving the ricksha service in the Colony on the general lines indicated in the question.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, replying to the second question, said—(1) It is doubtful whether provision can be made in next year's Estimates for a market at Tsim-tsa-tsi estimated to cost \$80,000.

(b) Plans and estimates for a refuse burner have recently been prepared. The cost of site, buildings and plant will amount to \$450,000 and it is doubtful whether provision can be made for it in next year's Estimates.

The COLONIAL TREASURER, replying to the third question, said—The Government have made enquiries and are satisfied that the only practical means that can be adopted for re-establishing the value of British subsidiary coins is to cease for the time to issue such coins and to induce the Cantonese authorities to stop the issue of Chinese subsidiary coins, the over-production of which combined with depressed trade has brought about the fall in value of both British and Chinese subsidiary currency.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I propose to supplement the answer given by the Director of Public Works to the hon. member's second question, as the answer he has received will probably not be

considered a satisfactory one. But it is obviously impossible for us to say what items are to be included in the Estimates for extraordinary public works until we have an approximate idea what the revenue for the year will be, and it is impossible to get this approximate idea until we know what we shall receive on account of the Opium Farm for which, as the honourable member no doubt is aware, tenders have been invited: the present farm expires on February 28th, 1907. We do, however, know something with regard to our probable revenue for next year, and I am sorry to say that what we know is not very satisfactory. For instance, we are aware we shall be unable to include in our revenue estimates for 1907 the sum which appears in this year's estimates of \$120,000 on account of profit on subsidiary coins. We can fairly assume also that land sales, unless there is a great improvement in trade, will not amount in 1907 to the sum of \$400,000, which appears in the Estimates for the current year. And we can also assume that unless trade improves there will be a falling off in other receipts. Turning next to expenditure, it is on the face of it a little difficult to say how we are going to meet the decline of revenue I have referred to. We know we shall have to provide some amount as interest on the loan for the Kowloon-Canton railway: as far as we see at present this interest will come to \$138,500. We know also there will be some increase in expenditure involved by extending the grading scheme of salaries to all subordinate officers. Further, the Government has committed itself to this Council in an expenditure for additional fire-extinguishing appliances estimated to cost some \$50,000. Again, I have promised as the result of earnest representations of public opinion made to me in this Council on the 21st September last year, not further to delay the commencement of the Tytamuk (second section) water supply scheme, a scheme estimated to cost three million of dollars, and for which, as soon as we are once embarked on it, it will be necessary to make a large appropriation each year. Again, the expenditure on the new Law Courts and Public Offices must next year be at least what it has been this year, if we are to fulfil our promise made to this Council to complete these two important public buildings by the end of the year 1909. So even if we do not start any public works of great magnitude in addition to the water supply scheme I have referred to, I am doubtful whether we shall be able to carry on without some additional taxation. When we do start a public work of the first magnitude I am strongly of opinion that work should be the junk typhoon shelter which is required in the interest of shipping in the Colony and for the safety of the Chinese boat population (applause). Apart from those public works, which once put in hand definitely commit us to a large annual expenditure, we are very desirous to do something to improve the approaches of the harbour to the city which at present are rightly termed reproaches to it. We also desire to go ahead with the main thoroughfares at Kowloon, with regard to which, this Council will remember, the gentleman lately representing the Chamber of Commerce on it was so very insistent. We are further anxious to improve the road communications in the New Territories. Moreover, we do not intend to decrease the amounts annually included in the estimates for the resumption of insanitary properties, the training of nallahs and the provision of flushing tanks, with which services it is to my mind absolutely indispensable to proceed if the sanitary condition of the Colony is not to be worse in the future than it has been in the past (applause). It is not with any desire to discourage such questions as have been put by the hon. member, containing as they do valuable and useful suggestions, that I have made these remarks, but I want to make clear that it is necessary for us to proceed in a business manner and, in view of falling receipts, not to commit ourselves to new and heavy items of expenditure (applause).

ASYLUMS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the establishment of Asylums for the custody and care of persons of unsound mind and others.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and this was agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorize the appropriation of a supplementary sum of two hundred and seventy-eight thousand four hundred and twelve dollars and eight cents, to defray the charges of the year 1905. He said—It is unnecessary for me to say anything to the Council in support of the Bill. It is necessary to authorize the payment of various sums stated in the Bill for the various public services to which these sums are appropriated.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and this was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Bill be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and this was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Council stands adjourned till Thursday, June 14th.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council—the Colonial Secretary presiding.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—His Excellency, at the last meeting of the Council, referred at length to the Appropriation Bill, and honourable members have before them full details. If there are no questions to be asked I propose that the various votes be approved.

The various items were read and approved. The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I also wish the Committee to empower me to express the opinion of the Committee that the said Bill may be dealt with by the Council as a Bill reported on by the whole of the Council in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council. That will save us sitting as a committee of the whole Council at the next meeting. This was agreed to.

LAW COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Law Committee was held afterwards—the Attorney-General presiding.

The Married Women's Property Bill was considered clause by clause, and passed through committee with two verbal amendments.

The Bill to regulate the qualifications and provide for the registration of dentists was considered clause by clause.

On the motion Dr. HO KAI clause eight, referring to the composition of the Dentist Board was altered by the addition, after the words "resident dentists," of the following: "and any two other fit persons willing to accept the appointment who may be from time to time appointed by the Governor."

On the motion of the ATTORNEY GENERAL sub-section 2 of the same clause was read and read "An appointed member shall hold office for three years."

Clause 7, section 3 was altered to read, no person shall be entitled to recover in any action any charge for dental aid rendered after the commencement of this Ordinance by any person not registered under this Ordinance unless and until such person is registered under the Ordinance.

Clause 9 section was altered to read—"If a person shall prove to the satisfaction of the Dentist Board that he was within three years prior to the passing of the Ordinance a bona-fide practitioner of dentistry and a dental surgeon in this Colony and shall make application in writing to the Dentist Board within six weeks after the commencement of the Ordinance for registration or in the case of persons absent from the Colony at the date of the commencement of the Ordinance shall make such application within six months after the passing of the Ordinance he shall be entitled to be registered."

On the motion of the ATTORNEY GENERAL it was agreed that the Bill be reprinted and discussed again.

As the result of the inquiry held at the magistracy into the circumstances of the collision between the Kowloon Dock Company's launch No. 7 and a sampan, the jury found that the sampan woman, who was drowned, met her death by misadventure. Mr. Hazeland accordingly ordered the discharge of the coxswain who was charged with manslaughter.

INTERPORT SHOOTING CONTESTS.

THE SUGGESTED TROPHY.

Mr. M. S. Northcote informed our representative on June 5 that the committee appointed to consider the conditions which it is proposed to apply to the Interport rifle shooting trophy will probably hold a meeting during the next fortnight. To stimulate riflemen to better results a trophy, which is to be shot for by British ports in the East, has been suggested, and subscriptions are being raised to defray the cost. To date, however, the returns have not been encouraging, an unusual thing in Hongkong when money is needed for a desirable object. It is suggested that the trophy should take the form of a vase which will be mounted on a large ebony plinth capable of accommodating thirty silver shields; these will be engraved with the record of every year's match since 1889. The trophy is to be of European design and workmanship and will cost about £200, which amount will be borne by the competing ports in equal shares.

The conditions suggested at Singapore and Shanghai for the maintenance of the trophy are as under:—

I.—The trophy shall be named the Interport Challenge Trophy.

II.—From 1907 onwards each winning team shall be responsible for having its shield or shields properly engraved before handing the trophy on to the next winner.

III.—The engraving on shields subsequent to 1906 shall be as far as possible exactly similar to that on shields already engraved.

IV.—The trophy shall be the property of the port winning the Interport Rifle Match each year, such port to be responsible for the safe keeping of the trophy until it is handed over to some other port. It shall be binding on the winners of this trophy to have it insured against loss by burglary or fire whilst in their possession and also to cover it against loss by whatever means whilst in transit to the next winners. Any damage done to the trophy shall be made good by the then holders, and if such damage shall have occurred whilst in transit, the senders shall be liable unless the damage shall be proved to have taken place after the arrival at the port of destination, in which case there recipients shall make good the damage done. The trophy shall always be met and taken charge of at the various ports to which it may be sent, by some responsible person or persons detailed off to do so by the respective ports.

V.—The Interport Challenge Trophy shall be handed over at the respective ports for safe keeping to—

Shanghai: The Chairman of the Municipal Council.

Hongkong: H. E. The Governor.

Singapore:

Penang: The Resident Councillor.

VI.—The above noted rules in relation to the Interport Challenge Trophy having been duly considered and agreed to by Hongkong, Shanghai, Singapore, and Penang, shall be binding and shall only be altered by the unanimous consent of all.

THE MURDER IN GAOL.

PRISONER EXECUTED.

Another execution took place in Victoria Gaol on the 6th June when Wong Tai, the prisoner who was condemned to death at the last Criminal Sessions for the murder of another prisoner on May 11th, was hanged. It will be remembered that the prisoner was undergoing a sentence of eight years' imprisonment for an act of piracy.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and Messrs. H. B. Davidson, B. Hunter and N. H. Harma, jurors, an inquiry was held at the Magistracy the same afternoon into the cause of death. After hearing the evidence the jury found that deceased met his death by hanging which was carried out in the due course of law.

The Kokumin learns that Viceroy Yuan's proposals for dealing with the opium problem in China are based in the main on the regulations applied by Japan in Formosa.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, June 1st.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

COMPRADORES V. CHINESE BANK.

The case was continued in which Tang Cheuk-hing and Tang Kwai-pok claimed from the Shu Yuen Bank the sum of \$10,000, being on account of money alleged to have been deposited with the defendant bank.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. C. Barlow (of Mr. H. K. Holmes' office), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), represented the defendants.

His Lordship, in delivering judgment, said he had had an opportunity of carefully perusing his notes, so he did not think it advisable that the case should hang fire any longer. Had he realised what the case was about, it certainly should not have been set down for trial by a judge without a jury, but as that had been done he would make the best of the materials before him, although he was not quite sure that he would be able to give a logical judgment. He thought there was a good deal of truth on both sides, and were it possible to get to the bottom of the case there would be much more truth than imagined. The case, however, was so mixed up with inconsequent statements that which way the ultimate truth might be almost passed his understanding to decide. In the first place it was not unreasonable that the plaintiff, having a large sum of yen unexpectedly in his hands, should go to the defendant bank with the object of depositing it. True, he had not had dealings with them before for two or three years, but it was a bank with which he had had dealings, and he might have thought it would be a good opportunity for re-establishing relations. What his Lordship could not understand was why the plaintiff should destroy his private memorandum. His case would be a simple case from the evidence in his books. It was, however, strengthened in what appeared a weak point by the evidence of Mr. Mihara, who stated that this dealing had not been with the compradore department of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha but with the compradore personally. The plaintiff destroyed the very book which would have thrown light on the case while he produced others, and his Lordship was entitled to say that he viewed it with suspicion. So far as the books were concerned on which such an action might be expected to rest, the case lamentably failed. He did not see why the defendants did not adopt a simpler means of defence. The missing money must have gone somewhere, and the defendants could have ascertained from other banks who bought the yen, as 10,000 could not be disposed of so easily. There were many difficulties in the way of the receipt. First it had been directly challenged regarding some of the characters on it, and expert evidence had been called. The Court had got to say whether the expert evidence was to be believed, therefore the Court had really got to confirm the evidence of an expert. His Lordship then reviewed the expert evidence and, continuing, said he could not for the life of him conceive how the plaintiff got hold of the document from the bank, but, taking his case as he put it, it might be that he got another receipt but it did not fit in with the case as he put it, so he thought he might alter receipt No. 1. This would be a peculiar kind of fraud, assuming that it was fraud. His Lordship only put this forward because he was anxious, in view of the responsible positions of both parties, not to press home a charge of fraud. What was alleged by the defendants to have taken place five or six years ago repeated itself. A receipt was given, a receipt which, according to the defendant's own statement, would not have appeared in the books of the bank, while of the yen themselves no record would have been kept in the bank's books. What happened according to the defendant's statement six or seven years ago might have happened again. The defendant had not been content with challenging the document put forward by the

plaintiff, but had indulged in a series of surmises. His Lordship could not understand why; they were perfectly unnecessary, and if they were not based on fact led inevitably to a tangled and confused mass of evidence. He could not believe a Chinese bank was conducted on the lines stated in evidence (which was to the effect that a bank manager ceased to be a manager), and then came the very serious matter of the missing receipt. The manager said he did not know a receipt written by one of the bank clerks was outstanding, while the clerk said he informed the manager of this. The whole story was mystifying, and he did not believe that if such a transaction took place the manager did not know the receipt was outstanding, and that efforts were not made to get it. The case therefore stands in this way: that the plaintiff failed to make his case good by his books. A receipt was produced which was challenged, and the challenge was one which his Lordship could not overlook, and he could not hold the receipt to be good in view of the challenge. The defendant's case did not stop there, however, but went on to surmises and was supported by a tangle of evidence. What his Lordship proposed therefore to do, in view of all the circumstances, was to non-suit the plaintiff because he did not think the defendant, in view of his evidence, was entitled to judgment. There was something more: he thought in the first place, in dealing with the conduct of the case and costs, that all that part of the trial which had been devoted to unravelling surmises ought to be borne by the defendant, but when he looked back to the cause of the action as stated by the defendant, the culpably careless way in which they had let the document get out of their hands without paying the slightest attention, he thought the justice of the case required that each party should pay its own costs.

AN UNCOMPLETED CONTRACT.

Ho Tung v. Chung Shun-koo was a case in which the plaintiff proceeded against the defendant for the specific performance of an agreement of lease, and to recover \$6,000 arrears of rent.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendant was represented by Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens.

Mr. Sharp, in opening, stated that the claim was for a specific performance of a written agreement for a lease, and for payment of certain arrears of rent due under that lease. The material facts were that on or about October, 1904, the plaintiff was negotiating with Messrs. Mody and Babington through Mr. Bisney, who acted as broker and agent throughout in the matter, for the purchase of this property. The property was to be sold subject to an existing first mortgage of \$15,000 to Mr. Smith and to a second mortgage of \$80,000 to the vendors for part of the purchase money. The price was \$275,000, and the property was to be sold subject to these mortgages. Apparently the defendant had previously formed a syndicate to start a new hotel, and he had been negotiating with Messrs. Mody and Babington through Sir Paul Chater for the purchase of this same property, on which counsel would prove that the defendant was aware of the mortgages. The upshot of these negotiations was that the defendant was unable to produce the balance of the cash, \$145,000, and Ho Tung was the purchaser. About November the defendant asked Mr. Bisney to obtain for him a lease from the Land Investment Co. of the next door house to the house this action concerned—16, Des Voeux Road. This was put through early in December, when the defendant informed Mr. Bisney that No. 16 would not be big enough for his hotel, and that he desired to get a lease from Ho Tung of his property so as to work the two houses together. Mr. Bisney saw the plaintiff about it, and Ho Tung asked \$2500 monthly rent to commence upon the signing of the agreement which he proposed to be a period of five years, while the third material term was that the lessee was to find security for his performance of the terms of the lease in the sum of \$10,000 cash. On December 14th the defendant gave Bisney a written authority to make a reduced offer to the plaintiff and upon that there were further

terms leading to the offer of the defendant. The first was that the rent should be \$2,300 a month, and was not to commence until July 1st, 1905. The second term was that the period must be ten years instead of five, the third, that the security for his performance of the lease be reduced to \$7,500 cash; the fourth, that the defendant would spend from \$10,000 to \$15,000 on alterations to the premises. The only remaining term was that the existing tenants were to be allowed to remain in occupation until their portions of the building were required for alteration. On December 20th a written agreement was entered into which incorporated the stated terms, and modified only one of them, Ho Tung agreeing that the defendant should spend only \$5,000 for alterations. In February, 1905, the defendant went to Mr. Bisney and told him the hotel scheme had failed and his syndicate collapsed and he asked Mr. Bisney to try to find a tenant for the property.

This was the beginning of the trouble.

Early in March the defendant went to Mr. Bisney and asked him to ask Ho Tung to further remit the rent until such time as alterations might be completed, but Ho Tung said he could make no further concessions as the value of the concessions already granted worked out at something like \$40,000. On May 10th defendant was sent the draft lease and document which he promised to execute, but finally he refused.

The case was adjourned.

Saturday, June 2nd.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

AN UNCOMPLETED CONTRACT.

The case in which Ho Tung proceeded against Chung Shun-koo for the specific performance of an agreement of lease, and to recover \$6,000 arrears of rent, was resumed.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendant was represented by Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens.

Plaintiff stated that he completed the negotiations for the purchase of the property in 1904, and bought it in November of that year from Messrs. Babington and Mody. The purchase money was \$275,000, subject to a mortgage of \$150,000 to Mr. Smith, and a second mortgage of \$80,000 to the vendors, and the balance in cash. Mr. Bisney approached him on behalf of the defendant with regard to a lease. Witness asked him \$2,500 a month rent, plus taxes, for a term of three or five years, the rent to commence from the signing of the contract, and also he asked for \$10,000 as security for the performance of the lease. A counter-offer was made of \$2,300 monthly rent, plus taxes, for a term of ten years, the rent to commence in July, 1905, the lessee to spend \$10,000 or \$15,000 on alterations and repairs to the building. Mr. Bisney also offered \$7,500 as security instead of \$10,000. With slight modification the terms were embodied in the agreement. The modification was that the lessee should spend \$5,000 instead of \$10,000. The agreement also provided that the tenants should be allowed to remain in occupation until the lessee required the quarters, the *Daily Press* to remain undisturbed until their new premises were ready. Messrs. Babington and Mody sold the premises to witness. The lease of the premises to the *Daily Press* was not shown to witness. It had been mislaid, and to the best of his belief it had not been found. Witness did not know when the *Daily Press's* new premises were to be ready when he bought the premises. The agreement was drawn up in duplicate, each party retaining a copy after due execution. During the preparation of the lease by Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, defendant offered witness a second mortgage on some other property instead of the cash security and the lease was prepared accordingly. Witness was subsequently approached by Mr. Bisney, on behalf of defendant, asking for a remission of rent for a few months, on the ground that he would lose money, as some of the members of

the syndicate backed out of the business, but he did not agree to make any remission of rent.

Mr. Bisney, estate broker, said he knew the premises, the subject of this suit. He acted as broker for Mr. Ho Tung in the purchase from Messrs. Babington and Mody. His evidence was corroborative of what the previous witness had stated. The agreement produced was written at witness' office and signed at Chung Shun-koo's house. Defendant asked witness to try to negotiate for the *Daily Press* to remain on, and witness saw Mr. Hale of that office, who said that another agreement had been entered into by which they were absolutely bound. It was not correct, as had been said, that witness informed defendant that the *Daily Press* would vacate in February, 1905. There was no foundation for that statement, nor for the statements made by Chung Shun-koo that witness promised him six months' vacant possession. There was no promise whatever as to what date the *Daily Press* would vacate. Their new premises were then occupied by Dodwell & Co., but witness did not know when that firm vacated the premises.

Witness was cross-examined at length by Mr. Pollock, and the case adjourned.

Tuesday, June 5th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

AN UNCOMPLETED CONTRACT.

The case in which Ho Tung proceeded against Chung Shun-koo for the specific performance of an agreement of lease, and to recover \$6,000, arrears of rent, was resumed.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendant was represented by Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens.

The evidence of Mr. Bird, architect, as to the handing over of the keys having been given, and further correspondence submitted, the case for the complainant was concluded.

Mr. Pollock, in opening the case for the defendant said that as his Lordship would have gathered from the cross-examination the defence was a complete denial. In the first place defendant absolutely denied that there was ever any idea at any time of his establishing a hotel or a boarding house there either in connection with No 14 or No 16. With regard to one of the most material points in the case, namely, the question of whether representation was made by Mr. Bisney at the time the agreement postscript was signed that the *Daily Press* would vacate their portion of the premises at the end of February, his Lordship would see that this was very important, because of course if rent was to run as agreed from the 1st July it was of course obvious common sense that the defendant should have the premises handed over to him and be in a reasonable position to complete the necessary repairs by the 1st of July. He submitted that the defendant never contemplated paying this large sum of money as rent from 1st July unless he was placed in such a position that he was able to complete the repairs and alterations to the whole of the premises. The only way in which it was reasonable was by the *Daily Press* vacating their portion of the premises by the end of February, and his Lordship would see from the correspondence referred to by Mr. Sharp how very embarrassing it was for defendant that the *Daily Press* would not vacate, because if the washing were attempted in the upper floors the water would percolate through to the *Daily Press* who would claim damages. It was a material fact in the case that the *Daily Press* not only did not vacate by the end of February but actually remained in occupation till the 31st of July, one month after the date when defendant was paying this big rent for the whole of these premises. They submitted to his Lordship in the circumstances it could not possibly be said that plaintiff was ready and willing to carry out his contract, and they further submitted that apart from the representation made by Mr. Bisney, it was obvious under such a contract that plain-

tiff was bound to give them possession of the whole of those premises by the 1st of July. The rent was to begin from that date, \$2,310 to be paid for the whole of the premises. They also submitted that inasmuch as the rent was due from that date that the plaintiff was bound to give them full and complete possession by that date. It would be absurd to suppose that it was intended that they should pay rent for the premises before the old tenants were turned out. In connection with that question, the defendant denied the allegation made by Mr. Bisney to the effect that the defendant was anxious to retain the *Daily Press* as tenants. He never made any such statement to Mr. Bisney; such an allegation was unlikely on the face of it. It was known that the Land Company were getting new premises ready for the *Daily Press*. His Lordship would see from the counterclaim that, in consequence of the breach of the contract occasioned by the *Daily Press* not vacating the premises, they claimed for four and a half months' rent, from February to August. Defendant also said that when Mr. Bisney asked him to sign the postscript to the agreement, that gentleman gave him a paper stating that the *Daily Press* would vacate at the end of February, but that that paper was burned. Mr. Bisney of course denied that.

Defendant said that Mr. Bisney approached him suggesting that the premises should be let as a hotel, adding that Mr. Farmer was going to sell his interest in the King Edward Hotel and would probably want another. Defendant thought that as it was near the Hongkong Hotel a licence would not be granted. He never made the proposal to Mr. Bisney to run a hotel there. The proposal came from Mr. Bisney himself. Questioned as to signing the agreement, defendant said he signed the postscript several days after signing the agreement. Mr. Bisney came to him in a great hurry and said he had omitted a very important clause from the agreement. Mr. Bisney stated that the *Daily Press* would vacate at the end of February. Witness gave evidence in support of Mr. Pollock's opening statement.

Cross-examined—There was no written statement of his that Mr. Bisney had given him a paper that the *Daily Press* would vacate and two months later Mr. Bisney had torn it up. There had been several actions brought against him in connection with the proposed hotel.

A female servant in defendant's employ spoke to Mr. Bisney visiting her master's house. She heard them speaking loudly, and thinking they were fighting entered the room and saw Mr. Bisney tear up a paper.

After hearing the addresses of counsel his Lordship intimated that plaintiff was entitled to have a decree for the specific performance of the contract, but he would have to consider what damage defendant had sustained through not obtaining complete possession in July. He would give his judgment on that point next day.

The Court then adjourned.

Wednesday, June 6th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

HO TUNG v. CHUNG SHUN KOO.

Judgment was delivered in this action by his Lordship, who said—I have carefully considered the point on which I reserved my opinion last night, and after consideration I am of the opinion that on the strict legal construction the defendant was entitled to have clear possession of the remaining portion of the building with the exception of the *Daily Press* on 1st July. It could not have been in the contemplation of either party that the repairs to that main building should in any way be delayed by the *Daily Press* remaining in possession of the godown. I do not think it would be fair to expect the defendant to have discovered even from the most carefully prepared instruments that the retention of the godown by the *Daily Press* would interfere seriously with the carrying out of the repairs. I therefore think that on the counterclaim the defendant is entitled to succeed to the extent to which it might have been agreed between the counsel.

Mr. Sharp (for plaintiff) said it was impossible for them to agree. The defendant claimed the whole amount of his counterclaim, and if they were to go into the question of damages he would ask his Lordship to hear him.

Mr. Pollock (for defendant) said the difference was rather as regards the period and not as regards the amount.

His Lordship said he did not think defendant could claim for more than one month.

Mr. Sharp agreed.

Mr. Pollock contended that they could claim not to the full extent but in part of the four and a half months.

Both counsel having addressed his Lordship on the subject of the counterclaim, the Chief Justice made some remarks, whereupon Mr. Sharp asked—Has your Lordship given judgment?

His Lordship replied that he had, and indicated that the question of costs would come up again.

A DISPUTED WILL.

Li Po-kwai and another v. Li Ling-shi and another. This was a claim under a will for one sixteenth part of marine lot 239 and inland lot 1,355 and for an account of the rent and profits thereon. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. John Hastings, appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. K. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens, Haraton and Harding), appeared for defendants.

Mr. Slade, after reading the pleadings, complained that the defendant had committed a breach of the general law with regard to pleading, inasmuch as they had failed to make specific reply to the material facts set forth by plaintiffs, so that it was difficult to tell what their real defence was. If it had not been for paragraph 10 in their pleadings, he would have asked his Lordship to give judgment on the pleadings but that paragraph necessitated his going into the whole circumstances of the case. The facts were somewhat complicated, but he would take the transactions in chronological order. The plaintiffs were sons of Li Chit, who died in 1896, whose executors were Li Sing, his brother, and Li Chuk-choo. Li Sing, a man of great wealth, was the managing partner of the Lai Hing firm, which was composed of himself, brother, and other members of the Li family. The firm owned considerable property in the Colony, and in 1881 purchased marine lot 39 with others, the firm holding three quarters. They developed the estate, and in 1905 the lot was divided into inland lot 1,355 and marine lot 239 by an arrangement with the Government. The facts in brief were that the defendants sold or attempted to sell the lot without having regard to the one-sixteenth share held by the defendants.

Evidence was called and the case adjourned.

Thursday, June 7th.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A DEBTOR IN GAOL.

An application was made by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for a receiving order in the case of Li Tat Ng ex parte the debtor. The statement of affairs showed that there were \$1,500 to \$2,000 in cash, and book debts amounting to \$1,000, the unsecured creditors amounting to \$18,000. The application was granted.

Mr. Grist—The debtor is in gaol under an execution and it is doubtful whether a receiving order releases him—

The PUISNE Judge—It does not.

Mr. Grist—At the same time it would be quite impossible to carry on the bankruptcy proceedings without his release; will your Lordship order his release on bail, say, \$2,000?

The PUISNE Judge—I see he has book debts amounting to \$10,000; what is to stop him from collecting a portion of that?

Mr. Grist—He cannot do it; it is all in the hands of the Official Receiver now. The cash will be paid into the Official Receiver at once, and apart from the cash we are prepared to find a bond for \$2,000.

Mr. Wakeman—I have no objection.

The order for the release of the debtor was issued.

MORE PARTNERSHIP DISPUTES.

In the case the Kung Sun firm ex parte Chan Chi Fat (creditor), Mr. B. G. Harding appeared for the petitioning creditor and asked for a receiving order.

Mr. F. B. Deacon (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for certain Chinese who had been served with notice of the petition and who denied being partners.

Mr. Harding stated the grounds for his petition were that the firm had suspended payment and that the managing partner and others had absconded. An interim order had been made. He had served notice of the petition on one man who admitted he was a partner and on others who did not admit that they were partners. If the latter were not partners, they were not affected by the service of the petition and had no locus standi in the matter.

Mr. Deacon objected to the granting of the receiving order, and pointed out that Mr. Harding could bring his clients into Court.

The Puisse Judge—He has not served you with the interim order and cannot serve you with the receiving order. I think your standing should stand over.

The receiving order was granted.

RECEIVING ORDER RESCINDED.

Mr. E. J. Grist made an application that the receiving order made in the action the Kwong Shang Cheng Hing Kee firm ex parte the Leung Ching Fuk Hing firm be rescinded.

The Puisse Judge said he had no doubt in his own mind as to his power to rescind a receiving order, but a great many learned judges at home disagreed with him.

Mr. Grist submitted that there was inherent power to rescind the order and quoted a case in support of his contention. The case went to the Court of Appeal and the learned judges concluded that it was altogether unreasonable to force a matter through the Bankruptcy Court when the creditors were willing to have the order rescinded, and upheld the Registrar's decision rescinding the order.

The Puisse Judge agreed, but remarked that the affidavits filed were not complete, as certain creditors who had proved their debts did not appear as consenting to the application.

Mr. Grist undertook to file an affidavit that the creditors consented, and the order of rescission was granted.

Friday, June 8th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

**BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).**

A DISPUTED WILL.

The case of Li Po-kwai and another v. Li Ling-shi and another was resumed. This was a claim under a will for one sixteenth part of marine lot 239 and inland lot 1,355 and for an account of the rent and profits thereon. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. John Hastings, appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. K. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston and Harding), appeared for defendants.

Mr. Pollock asked for an adjournment in order that a comparison should be made between documents signed by Li Sing and the documents produced by Li Po-kwai. It would be necessary to obtain the evidence of Mr. Ewens, solicitor, now in England.

His Lordship pointed out that that would involve a commission.

Mr. Pollock replied that Mr. Ewens would probably be back in October, and it would not be much of an adjournment considering the case began in 1904.

His Lordship said it would have been possible to have taken Mr. Ewens' evidence *de bene esse* previous to his leaving the colony.

Mr. Pollock remarked that it was impossible to anticipate the complete denial of the documents by the other side.

His Lordship considered it unusual to ask for an adjournment in the middle of a case in order to strengthen it. He did not think it would be fair to the other side to adjourn it, but he would see how the case went. If it took

the form of forgery, then he would allow them to call rebutting evidence.

The hearing of evidence in support of the plaintiff's case was continued.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

FORCED TO SIGN.

Mr. Jackson (of the firm of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the head fireman of the s.s. Twickenham in support of his claim against an under fireman for two sums of \$201 and \$150, due on promissory notes. Defendant admitted signing the notes, but said he did so under compulsion. He lost the money gambling on the voyage from London and when he landed at Hongkong the previous night plaintiff, with other men, stopped him and made him sign the documents in question. Plaintiff knew that he (defendant) had over \$20) due to him as wages and wanted to get the money out of him.

His Lordship—I am not surprised at that Judgment was entered for plaintiff.

THE NAVY LEAGUE.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League was held in the City Hall on June 6th. Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. presided, and among others present were—Messrs. T. P. Cochrane, M. W. Slade and D. R. Law (committee), A. R. Lowe (secretary), A. Carter, G. H. Medhurst, A. Forbes and Captain Clark.

The PRESIDENT said that as the report and statement of accounts of that branch of the Navy League had been circulated he would take them as read. He was sorry not to see a larger attendance, which he trusted did not mean that the members and associates were not interested in the work but was due only to other attractions and to the heat. From the report they would see that that branch had either disbursed or promised considerable sums of money during the past year, more especially in connection with the Trafalgar Centenary. He thought the Hongkong Branch ought to do its little best in commemoration of that event, therefore as president he put himself in communication with the Naval authorities to see what could be done here for officers and men of the Navy. It was at first suggested that a special recreation ground should be procured for the Navy at Kowloon and the Government of the Colony kindly met the League in the matter. Afterwards, when so many boats left the station they thought they had better communicate with the Naval authorities again and use their influence with the Government to secure permanent quarters at Happy Valley on which the League would expend a sum of \$1,500. The Government on being approached on the subject were in favour that a permanent building should be erected at Happy Valley, and in due course the said sum would be laid out for the erection thereof by this branch of the Navy League. They had also expended a sum of \$100, the cost of a wreath which had been placed on Nelson's Column. Amongst other items in the accounts a sum of \$787.3) was given for the purpose of purchasing a billiard table for the Seamen's Institute at Wanchai, and the Committee understood the gift had been much appreciated. As members would observe from the statement of accounts, by the time the sum of \$1,500 had been disbursed they would have a very small sum in hand, therefore he would like to remind those who wished to help in the future as they had done in the past that it was necessary they should secure further new members and associates. The number of British adult residents in this Colony (exclusive of the services) exceeded 1,200, and the report showed a membership of only 265, considerably less than one-fourth of the number of British residents. Members would agree with him that this was not a satisfactory state of affairs; all British subjects here should join this branch either as members, or associates, and none could say that they could not do so as the subscription was only \$1 a year for members and \$2 for associates. Some might ask what was the use of joining a branch of the Navy League out here. He would say that it was a very great encouragement indeed to the people

at home to feel that they were supporting the far outpost of the empire by local opinion. The British fleet was one, and he reminded them that the Navy League was one, although its branches were scattered all over the world, and all did their best to promote the objects of the League to secure the efficiency and sufficiency of the Navy (applause). And such was absolutely imperative if we were to secure our commerce in time of war. Another point which struck him in connection with the necessity of British residents of the Colony supporting the Navy League arose out of the fact which was patent to all of them who closely observed the trend of events in the Far East, namely, that things were moving with wonderful rapidity in the Far East. China used to be spoken of as a very conservative country and her people as a very conservative people, but those of them who had thoughtfully watched recent events must have been impressed by the fact that China and the Chinese were beginning to move, and the British nation ought to be prepared to take their part in the events which might follow. Whatever we had gained had been gained for the benefit not only of ourselves, but for all other nations. Our doctrine throughout had been the principle of an open door in China, and we were anxious that it should be adopted and maintained in future. To do this we must have an efficient navy in the far East. President Roosevelt put this matter very incisively in an address he delivered at Chicago, when he said—"We wish for a powerful and efficient navy, not for purposes of war, but as the surest guarantee of peace." The speaker stated that this branch of the League disputed the wisdom of the Admiralty's policy in withdrawing so many gunboats from Chinese waters. They thought it was desirable that the British flag should be visible on the inland waters of China in order that British prestige should be maintained. As we were aware the Admiralty's policy had been reversed considerably, two gunboats having been put into commission, and he was glad to say that the British flag was again flying on the inland waters of China (applause).

In conclusion, he urged British residents in the Colony to join the League, and pointed out that since the last meeting the number of members had diminished from 285 to 265 and associates from 35 to 17. He was sure they would agree that that was not a satisfactory state of affairs, and he appealed to British residents to strengthen that branch of the League which, he could assure them, was very much appreciated at home. With those few observations he moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet.

Mr. COCHRANE seconded, and this was agreed to.

The members of the existing Committee resident in the Colony were re-elected and Messrs. Murray Stewart, Medhurst and A. Forbes, secretary, were added in place of Messrs. Gershom Stewart, E. W. Mitchell and N. J. Stabb, on the motion of Captain CLARK, seconded by Mr. A. CARTER.

This concluded the proceedings.

The report and statement of accounts were as follows:—

Since the last General Meeting of this Branch of the League peace has been declared between Japan and Russia and the Anglo-Japanese Alliance has been renewed for a further period and upon a more extended basis than formerly. The above events have called upon our Naval Authorities to effect a considerable reduction in the China Squadron, but in view of the recent rapid march of events in the Far East and of the necessity of upholding British prestige in China, it may be reasonably doubted whether such a policy of reduction had not been carried too far. In one respect indeed the Admiralty has modified its former policy inasmuch as it is recommending certain ships for the purpose of upholding British influence in the inland waters of China. The desirability of patrolling inland waters was mentioned at the last General Meeting of this Branch and has since formed the subject of some correspondence with the Head Office of the League. In connection with the question of Weihaiwei your Committee are strongly opposed to its retrocession on the ground of the desirability of its retention as a

sanatorium for officers and men of the fleet on this Station. It is satisfactory to note from the printed returns of big-gun shooting in the British Fleet that the standard all round has very materially improved, thereby leading to greater efficiency, and it is also satisfactory to note that H.M.S. *Dreadnought* has been launched so soon after having been laid down and that she will probably be faster than any battleship now in existence. During the past year a sum of \$787.30 was given by this Branch for the purpose of purchasing a billiard table for the Seamen's Institute at Wanchai and your Committee understand that the gift has been much appreciated. This Branch also gave a donation of \$100 towards extraordinary expenditure incurred in connection with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Arsenal Street.

In connection with the Trafalgar Centenary the President put himself in communication with the local Naval Authorities with the result that it was decided by the latter to accept a donation from this Branch of \$15.00 to be expended in connection with the new permanent recreation quarters for the officers and men of the Fleet which are to be erected at the Happy Valley. The Hongkong Government has in connection with this matter very kindly acceded to the request of your Committee that the Naval Authorities should be permitted, subject to certain conditions, to erect permanent quarters at the Happy Valley in lieu of the existing matshed. A wreath, costing ten guineas, was placed on the Nelson Column on Trafalgar Day and an appropriate telegram was sent home which was read at the Navy League dinner in London. The following are the present members of Committee who are now in the Colony: The undersigned (President), Mr. M. W. Slade, Mr. D. R. Law, Mr. T. P. Cochrane, Mr. B. Layton, Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, and Mr. A. B. Lowe (Hon. Secretary). The other three members of the Committee, the Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, Mr. E. W. Mitchell and Mr. N. J. Stabb (Hon. Treasurer), will be absent from the Colony for some time. The number of members and associates of this Branch is as follows, viz.:—Members, 265; Associates, 17. The number of British adult residents in this Colony (exclusive of the service) exceeds 1,200 and it is to be hoped, therefore, that residents will come forward as either members or associates in larger numbers. The subscription is only \$5 a year for members and \$2 a year for associates and there is no entrance fee. On the opposite leaf will be found a statement of accounts made up to 31st January, 1906, which has been kindly audited by Mr. J. McArthur.—H. E. Pollock, President.

HONORARY TREASURER'S ACCOUNT OF
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 1ST DECEMBER,
1904, TO 31ST JANUARY, 1906.

Dr. RECEIPTS.						\$ c.
Balance brought forward 30th Nov.						717.48
Subscriptions:						
1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.		
\$5.	\$5.	\$5.	\$97.	\$850.50.		962.50
Interest received from Hongkong Bank						24.11
						\$1,704.09
Cr. PAYMENTS.						\$ c.
Donations:						
Billiard table presented to Seamen's Institute						787.0
Wreath for Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Day (£10 10s.)						107.83
Soldiers' and Sailors' Home						100.00
						995.15
Postages, local						86.57
Postages account, Journals, 1904						132.77
Telegram to London Branch Trafalgar Day						16.80
Stationery, Printing &c.						55.10
Clerical Services & Collecting Shroff						90.00
Rent of City Hall for meeting						10.00
Navy League, London, £30 account						291.75
1905 Subscriptions						25.95
Balance in Bank, 31st January, 1906						\$1,704.09

30th November, 1904.—

Fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	\$ c.
12 months' interest at 4 per cent...	1,560.00
	62.40
	\$1,622.40

31st December, 1905.—

Fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	\$ c.
	1,622.40
	\$1,622.40

BUILDING COLLAPSES IN HONGKONG.

INHABITANTS BURIED.

Quite a sensation was created in Hongkong on June 1st when it was learned that three houses had collapsed in Queen's Road. Knowing how densely populated Chinese tenements are, it was feared that a disaster involving the loss of about 100 lives had taken place, but by rare good fortune the occurrence did not partake of so calamitous a nature, and, though serious in itself, was happily unattended with anything beyond injury to one or two persons.

The property, where the collapse occurred, consists of three houses, numbered 226, 228 and 230, Queen's Road West. It is situated at the corner of Eastern Street, and like most of the other buildings there slopes upwards from the front. At the corner was a wine shop, with opium divan above and a dwelling house over that. The next part was a tea shop which comprised the two upper floors, while adjacent to that was a bakery. The staff of the tea shop numbered about 50, and including the other houses there must have been not far short of 120 persons on the premises. When this is remembered, it will be realised that the absence of fatalities was almost miraculous. There is no need to describe in greater detail the character of the buildings. They were of the usual type of Chinese tenements, with solid looking verandahs in front, and perhaps not so old as many in the same street. Yet there must have been a premonition that all was not well. Part of the same block was buttressed with bamboos, and it is certainly noteworthy that it was in the portion not so treated that the collapse took place.

So far as can be gathered the people in all these establishments were pursuing their usual vocation yesterday morning, when about 10 o'clock a peculiar sound was heard coming from the roof. As it gained in volume it became more ominous and the majority of the people fled without further warning. It was well that they did so, for a few seconds after the first cracking sound the roof fell in with a loud crash. The accumulated debris caused the second floor to give way with another prolonged crash, which was repeated as the next floor also gave way. When several of those who had escaped recovered from the consternation into which they were thrown, the police were at once apprised of what had happened. Inspector Collett from West Point was quickly on the scene, followed soon afterwards by Mr. T. L. Perking of the Public Works Department and a staff of assistants. As the upper floors of the three houses had fallen in, leaving the building open from the first storey, steps were taken to prevent the wall in Eastern Street from falling outwards. This was accordingly shored up. In about half an hour's time the members of the Fire Brigade were in attendance and immediately they started on the work of rescuing the two or three people whom it was known were covered by the debris. Groans from the verandah of the tea house attracted the searchers to that place. There they found a Chinaman slightly injured under a mass of woodwork. He was quickly liberated and conveyed to the hospital. In the meantime the men at the rear found other two persons in the top cookhouse, which, curiously enough, had remained intact. Naturally they were much frightened, but the fire escape was brought round and by its means they were removed to a place of safety. At the rear of the wine shop, the voice of somebody buried under

the heap of broken wood and stones and mortar was distinctly heard, a fact which induced the members of the brigade to redouble their energies. Certainly the Europeans engaged on the undertaking worked with a will, and after about an hour's labour, the man was reached. He had been heard to say that if he was extricated he could walk. However, he was carried out to the street. There was a cry for "Sui," but a cup containing samshu was put to his lips. This was not without a reviving effect, but when water was poured over his head and face to wash the sand from his eyes and mouth it did not seem so much to his liking. He had a wound on the skull and several bruises on the limbs, but he did not seem badly injured. He was placed on a stretcher and conveyed to the hospital. A pathetic touch was imparted when this man clutched his rescuer by the arm and addressed him as his good friend. His escape was a remarkable one considering that he had fallen from the top storey. Although the people in the house declared that all the inmates had escaped, the search was not slackened, despite the fact that the work amid the smothering dust and in the heat of midday was no easy task. Tunnels had to be made, through which the search could be prosecuted, but as these had to be shored up, lest they should collapse and entail the work being done over again, the progress was of necessity slow. About sixty men were engaged in effecting a clearance, but though they laboured on right through the afternoon no fresh discovery was made except the body of a cat which had been suffocated. It was stated that the two injured men did not leave the building with the others as they were under the influence of opium. No bodies had been recovered by 10 o'clock last night.

When the collapse occurred, it was fortunate that the outside walls, though deprived of their support, remained standing. The entire premises were wrecked, because all the debris had landed on the verandahs. The wine shop was left with part of its stock raised along the walls, but about 300 gallons of samshu flooded the premises. The fumes from this were overpowering and retarded the men at work. The other shop was simply blocked up with broken woodwork, but an energetic policeman succeeded in procuring the till and handing it over to the owner. The same description applies to the third shop.

Another difficulty with which the men had to contend was the escaping gas, but after some trouble it was shut off. By three o'clock the wine shop had been cleared, and then the men started on the second shop, in which lay a great accumulation of stone and mortar and splintered woodwork.

Naturally the occurrence created great excitement among the Chinese, who assembled in thousands on all sides of the wrecked buildings to watch the operations. There was perfect order throughout; the police had no difficulty with the crowds. The ambulance carriages were in attendance. The Hon. Mr. W. Cuatham and his staff did what was necessary in the circumstances, while the fire brigade worked like Trojans.

Inquiries resulted in ascertaining that the houses which belonged to one party were insured against fire but not against destruction of this nature. It is estimated that the damages amount to about \$70,000.

Although a big staff of workers prosecuted their labours right through Friday night and Saturday, and succeeded in clearing the debris from the interior of the three shops in Queen's Road West where the collapse occurred on Friday morning, no additional bodies were discovered. As already reported, the people who had been in residence there on Friday morning declared that everybody had escaped, yet the four who were rescued were discovered after that statement, so that those supervising the work were determined to leave nothing to chance. The work of clearance was hastened, and by to-day the debris has practically been removed from all three shops.

Some excitement was created on June 3rd when it was reported that the houses adjacent to those which collapsed in Queen's Road West were also giving way. The police turned out and discovered that the party wall between 238 and 240 was bulging out. To

avoid disaster the inmates were ordered out and afterwards coolies were engaged in shoring up the walls.

HONGKONG POLO CLUB.

THE MAY CUP.

The first rounds for the above cup were played off on the 2nd instant, when the following teams met:—

R. W. Kent Regt. versus Club Team.	
Capt. Joslin	Mr. C. H. Riss
Major Pedley	Mr. J. H. Noble
Capt. Kitson	Capt. Ward
Mr. Belgrave	Capt. Coleman

Won by R. W. Kent Regiment, score 3 goals and 1 sub.

Club Team's score, 1 goal and 1 sub.

Royal Artillery, versus Hongkong Civilians.

Capt. Seddon	Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson
Capt. Smith	Mr. M. Stewart
Capt. Bennett	Mr. Menocal
Capt. Price	Mr. Moxon

Won by Royal Artillery, score 2 goals and 1 sub.

Hongkong Civilians' score, 1 goal and 1 sub.

The final round was played on Monday, when the Kent Regiment defeated the Royal Artillery by 4 goals and 2 subsidiaries to 1 goal and 2 subsidiaries.

The Royal West Kent Regiment having won the May Cup three times in succession it now becomes their property and in presenting the cup to the winning team, H. E. the Governor congratulated the Regiment in having thus secured this coveted trophy during their stay in the Colony.

His Excellency then announced that another cup had been offered for competition on terms more or less similar to those of the May Cup, details of which would in due course be submitted to the Polo Club Committee.

SHANGHAI ANOMALIES.

The following two letters, copied from the minutes of the Shanghai Municipal Council, show how vexed is still the Mixed Court question."

Council Room,

Shanghai, 28th May, 1906.

SIR,—I have the honour to bring to the notice of the Consular Body a case which has been under discussion between the Council and the German Consular Authorities during the past two months. The facts have little or no intrinsic bearing on the point which has been raised, and they are sufficiently set out in the enclosed copy of the correspondence file. Briefly summarised, they are as follow:—

On the 31st December, a Chinese, by name Yü Chien-pao, was sentenced at the Mixed Court to six years' imprisonment for counterfeiting twenty-cent pieces. Early in April an application was received from the Mixed Court Magistrate for the release of this prisoner on the grounds of ill-health; upon examination it was found that this application was not bona fide. In May a renewed application for release was received from the Taotai on the grounds that the case was one which, under the provisions of Article 4 of the Mixed Court Rules of 1869, it was for the City Magistrate to take action. As to the desirability of complying with the Taotai's request, the Council has since been in correspondence with the Consul General for Germany.

The Consular Body will observe that even were the provisions of the rule applicable, it might reasonably be demanded that the City Magistrate should come into the Settlement for the purpose of holding the trial and that the sentence should be served in the Municipal Gaol.

It is not, however, with this only in view that the Council sees the urgency for resisting the Chinese claim in the matter. It is contended by Dr. Scholz that for the present the Rules of 1869 only have effect, and that the provisional code of 1902 together with the procedure which has grown up in respect to the Mixed Court during the past thirty-seven years shall no longer be followed.

Literal compliance with this dictum would be fraught with the gravest consequences for, to cite only one fundamental point, the Consular

Body will observe that Rule 1 of the Code of 1869 calls for the provision of lodging for prisoners by the Magistrate, and its rigid observance would involve the abolition of the Municipal Gaol and the handing over of the present occupants to the custody of the Chinese.

Your despatch of the 5th February last informed the Council that all matters relating to the Mixed Court are in the hands of the Diplomatic Body in Peking. On the 15th March you wrote, repudiating, on behalf of the Consular Body, the function of appeal in respect to Mixed Court cases. With a view, therefore, in the first place, of upholding the authority of the Mixed Court as the only proper tribunal for criminal cases arising in the Settlement (except only those involving the death penalty), and to impress upon the Diplomatic Body the comprehensive code of rules for observance in that Court, I have the honour to request that the case in question be submitted in full for the Minister's information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL HOLLIDAY,

Chairman.

D. SIFFERT, Esq.,

Consul-General for Belgium,
and Senior Consul.

Shanghai, May 31st.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 28th instant, having for object the case of Yü Chien-pao, counterfeiter of coins, which has been under discussion between the Council and the German Consular authorities for the last two months.

The Consular Body is fully acquainted with the facts of the case and is still unanimously of opinion that Yü Chien-pao should be brought before the Mixed Court to be handed over to the Chinese authorities in accordance with the request of the German Consul-General.

The demand being complied with the Consular Body will furnish the Diplomatic Body with the facts of the case and respectfully point out to it, as has been done many times before, the imperative need for an adequate and comprehensive code of rules for observance in the Mixed Court.

As for the case in question, negotiations have taken place between our German colleague and the Taotai, and as a consequence of these negotiations it has been recognised that Yü Chien-pao had not to be tried by the Mixed Court but by the Shanghai city's magistrate, in accordance with the rules which, under instructions received from Peking cannot be disregarded, as was done before the troubles of December last. The Consular Body knows that this disregard of said rules has been a reasonable consequence of growth of this settlement which brings forth unavoidable changes in the rules for the administration of justice in this settlement. It is regrettable that the Chinese authorities do not always appear to be convinced of these changes and their consequences, but the Consular Body has always tried its best to convince them of the necessity to keep up with the time and agree peacefully to alter the existing rules for the administration of justice. The Consular Body feels how difficult it is to revert to a literal compliance with the rules of 1869 and the repeal of the decree of the 14th January last, which was telegraphically asked for by the Consular Body on the 14th March is one of its last successful endeavours not to return to the literal compliance with the said rules.

Our letter of the 15th of March stated that the Consular Body is not a Court of Appeal, which functions are not invested with us as a body, but the treaties define clearly the duty of every Consul when he is unable to arrange matters in the first instance.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. SIFFERT,

Consul-General for Belgium,
and Senior Consul.

CECIL HOLLIDAY, Esq.,

Chairman, Municipal Council.

The Chinese working tailors at Shanghai are out on strike for a rise of sixty cash a day, because rice is dearer. Some prosecutions are reported. There are about six hundred men affected.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

June 2nd.

A THANKLESS TASK.

The Railway Coy. recently sent a telegram to Taotai Wong Chang-ting in Shanghai asking him to return here to manage railway affairs. Taotai Wong, who was formerly a railway deputy here, has declined.

A LIVELY FIGHT.

Commodore Wong Pui-cheung has successfully raided the Ching Pan village in the Poon-yu district, where a number of notorious pirates had taken refuge. There was a lively fight, in the course of which one pirate was shot dead and three others captured.

WITH HONGKONG CAPITAL.

It is reported that the Sin-Hongkong has got two Hongkong merchants to invest each \$350,000 for the construction of the Canton Waterworks. These two merchants are surnamed Tam and Yau. It is estimated, however, that a much larger sum will be required to carry the scheme through.

THE VICEROY'S WAR HORSE.

Some time ago Loong Choi-kwong, Taotai of Yau Kong in Kwangai, presented Viceroy Shum with a war horse named "Kuk Fa Ching" (Green Chrysanthemum). This horse is described as "very tall and strong and has fine hair". Viceroy Shum is very pleased with the animal.

RED TAPE MANUFACTORY TO FOLLOW.

The Government paper factory intends to do printing as well and has ordered printing machines and type from Japan. All stationery used by officials will be printed by the factory.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

June 1st.

A FISHING COMPANY.

It is rumoured here that a syndicate will soon form a fishing company in this city, with steam fishing boats. It is strange that whenever a foreigner comes to Macao, he brings with him some extraordinary ideas. I would hint to the enterprising syndicate a fact which they probably ignore, that the Chinese fishermen are paying a tax to the Chinese Government for the right of fish in the waters around Macao.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

It is believed here that the new ministry under the premiership of Sr. Conselheiro João Franco Castelo Branco will not survive long. If such proves to be the case it is much to be regretted, as I understand that Sr. Franco, who belongs to the Regenerador Liberal party, is the right man in the right place, and further that he has under him in the new ministry devoted men of high intellectual and moral value.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

It is now more than three weeks that we have had the electric light, and the inhabitants find that they cannot yet dispense with their kerosene lamps.

June 8th.

STILL ANOTHER LOTTERY.

Still we are going to have another lottery. The new one is called the "Chim-pu-piu." I wonder how many more lotteries the Government intends to allow in this city.

A BAD ACCIDENT.

I am sorry to report a bad accident which took place on Wednesday night at the electric works. A Chinaman was caught by part of the machinery and one of his legs was cut off clean. He was at once removed to the Military Hospital, where he expired yesterday morning.

DEATH OF ANOTHER OLD RESIDENT.

On Wednesday morning there passed away very peacefully at his residence Mr. Lauriano Martinho Marques, the retired assistant to the Colonial Treasurer. Mr. Marques retired last year, and went to Shanghai, but had to return as the climate was unsuitable for him. The deceased as a public servant was always highly respected by all who had dealings with him. He left a widow, two daughters and two sons to mourn his death.

CONSULATES CLOSED.

By the departure for home of Mr. F. O. Seaton, who was for many years acting as H. B. M. Vice Consul at this port, the British Consulate is closed until further notice under instruction from the British Minister in Peking. The late Mr. Pacheco was in charge of the Italian and Siamese Consulates, and since his death these two have also ceased to exist. All the Consuls for other countries are residing in your port, hence with the exception of the consular agent for France no consulate is now existing in Macao.

WEEK-END VISITORS.

With the approach of the hot season, week-end visitors from Hongkong are getting more numerous, and with the facilities afforded by so many steamers running cheap Sunday excursions, the port is to be crowded every Sunday by a large number of people. The hotels and boarding houses are expecting brisk business and will gladly make hay while the sun shines.

TRADE OF SINGAPORE.

The Straits Settlements returns of imports and exports for the year 1905 have just been published.

The imports, exclusive of treasure, come out thus:—

1905	...	\$331,620,854	=£33,845,371
1904	...	\$337,063,088	=£32,305,793

Decrease in Dollars	...	\$5,442,284
Increase in Sterling	...	£1,539,578
Singapore accounts for \$238,347,216 against \$245,079,225 in 1904. The decrease is most manifest under the head of raw materials. Penang shot up by over 1½ million of dollars.		

The exports, exclusive of treasure, show thus:

1905	...	\$277,587,919	=£28,332,714
1904	...	\$265,158,779	=£25,419,451

Increase in Dollars	...	\$12,429,140
Increase in Sterling	...	£2,913,263
Singapore decreased from \$199,958,427 in 1904 to \$197,618,811 in 1905. The falling-off is wholly under the head of raw materials. Penang shows increase amounting to about \$14,600,000. The value of tin exported from Singapore fell off from \$41,795,671 in 1904 to \$38,979,833, in 1905. Penang's tin exports increased by over 7½ million dollars.		

The imports, including treasure—the gross value are:

1904	...	\$383,942,088
1905	...	\$345,037,789

The imports, excluding treasure, are:

1904	...	\$326,193,851
1905	...	\$296,247,931

The conversion rates have been taken at about 1/11 in 1904 and 2/04 in 1905.

COREA'S TRADE IN 1905.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT.

The "Report on the Trade of Corea and Abstract of Statistics for 1905," by Mr. H. W. Davidson, Chief Commissioner of Customs, opens thus:—

General.—The year 1905, even beyond the preceding, has proved a busy and doubtless a profitable one for merchants in Corea. To have foretold, even only three or four years ago, such an expansion of Corea's trade as has taken place would have been impossible for the most sanguine.

The increase of money in circulation owing to extensive operations on the part of the Japanese Government and large private companies is no doubt still responsible for the increase in the demands of the Coreans. It only remains to be shown whether, after the money labourers and the working classes generally have obtained from this irregular source has all been expended, the market for foreign commodities will be able to consume the same large quantity of imports as has been brought in during the last two years. It is a trait of the Corean character that he spends money when he has it and spends it on the best he can obtain, but none is hoarded with a view to providing against less prosperous times. Consequently when the source of the income he has been receiving during

the last two years is withdrawn, he is likely to find himself compelled to do without a large amount of what he has lately come to consider necessary. It was the turn of merchants on the east coast to gain by the increased wealth of the Coreans; for during the previous year though they had the money there was no supply of goods available for them to spend it on. In 1904 shipping and transport of goods was too insecure and the cost of such transport too large for merchants to take great risks, but since the end of the war the quantity of merchandise shipped to Wonsan has surpassed the volume of any previous period. Towards the end of the year also communication between the east coast ports of Corea and Vladivostok was reopened, thus making available another market for Corean products. The demand for fresh beef for Vladivostok had created quite a brisk trade for a short time before the outbreak of the war.

The crops of cereals, though not so good as they were confidently expected to be, gave a fairly average yield. But for a prolonged rainy season—the rainfall of the month of September exceeded even that of July or August—and the exceptionally severe storm of the 3rd of September, the crops would have yielded returns far above the average, all other factors being specially favourable.

During the past year the currency of Corea has been changed. The old nickel coin has been for the most part replaced by a newer and better, bearing the same face value as the Japanese five sen piece and backed by silver fifty and twenty cent pieces. All of these are interchangeable at par with the Japanese coinage. The remainder of the old nickel coinage is now regularly exchanged even in the open market for the new and the Japanese currency at a fixed rate of two of the old coins for one of the new. The greatest advantage of this system will be felt by merchants in being able to estimate and make contracts with natives without having to reckon on any sudden variation of the exchange between Japanese and Corean money as has always been the case in business transactions between Coreans and foreigners during the last four or five years.

The gross value of the year's trade, without including gold or the trade with non-Treaty ports, has been as follows:—

Foreign goods imported from abroad	23,971,652
Foreign goods imported from native ports	4,839,773
Foreign goods re-exported abroad	1,012,270
Foreign goods re-exported to native ports	5,050,872
Native goods imported from native ports	4,033,073
Native goods re-exported to native ports	223,862
Exports abroad	6,904,301
Exports to native ports	4,432,606

Y60,368,609

This shows an increase of more than seven million yen over last year's total. If from this total we deduct the value of goods that are entered twice for the same consignment, as exports and re-exports to native ports which are included in the total of imports from native ports, and add the value of goods carried between Treaty and non-Treaty ports, we get a value of Y59,300,000 as the value of goods carried by the 9,949 vessels of 2,000,624 tons burden entered during the year.

In considering the direct foreign trade only, showing net total imports of Y31,959,582 and exports—goods Y6,904,301 and gold Y5,206,805—of Y12,111,106, another enormous balance against Corea of Y19,848,476 is recorded. But, as usual, the Treasury Tables beyond Gold show no export to balance this sum, the excess of imports beyond the amount brought in by the Japanese Government may still be regarded as the equivalent of moneys paid in wages and for foodstuffs by the Japanese army and as capital and plant brought into the country by investors. Goods brought in by the Japanese military authorities which are not to be sold in the country may be deducted from Corea's indebtedness as no return is expected from them even now or in the future, but whatever is brought by private companies for sale or for improvement of their plant must be included as at some time the promoters hope to get some

return for the outlays they now make. Looking back on the figures of the balance of trade for the last few years, it is astonishing to find that when now the balance against Corea reaches the above high figure, the balance against in 1902, only three years ago, was the comparatively small amount of Y160,233 while in 1900 there was over two million yen in favour. During the last two years while the war has been in progress the published figures are to a great extent misleading. Large quantities of goods have been imported and exported by transport which are not included in the Customs returns, and for these imports Corea did not pay while receiving payment for the exports.

Revenue.—For the first time the Revenue collected by the Customs has exceeded two million yen, reaching a total for the year under review of Y2,293,250.17. Of this sum import duties account for Y1,066,794.23, by far the largest amount ever collected, exceeding the total for 1904 by Y466,691.03, that of 1903 by Y974,806.06. Export duties amount to Y263,919.69 and show a further decline of Y28,090.46. Tonnage dues again make a record, amounting to Y62,536.25, being an increase of Y9,299.50. Every year sees larger steamers put on the regular lines serving the Corean ports, while the occasional calls of steamers direct from Europe and America become more frequent and thus subscribe to this source of revenue.

THE CHINA MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

The eighth annual meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at Shanghai on May 30th.

Mr. John Ford (Chairman) said—It gives me great pleasure to again be able to point out the continued progress of the Company for the past year. Our income shows an increase over the previous year of over Tls. 250,000; our Reserve, of over Tls. 86,000; our Assets, of over Tls. 885,000; and our Insurance in force, of over Tls. 3,200,000. I am also pleased to state that we have secured the services of Mr. A. J. Hughes, as Secretary and Actuary, who has placed our Reserve on the same standard as that of home companies, thereby placing us in a much stronger position than formerly. I have nothing further to say, but should any present wish to ask any questions, I am prepared to answer them.

There being no questions, the Chairman proposed: That the Directors' report for the year ending 31st March, 1906, as submitted to this meeting, be and is hereby approved.

In seconding the adoption of the Report, Mr. Hughes referred to his gratification at having entered the services of so influential a Company and one with unusually brilliant prospects. He doubted whether many foreigners in Shanghai appreciated the fact that there had been built up in their midst as large and important an institution as the China Mutual. He stated that the income was now in excess of Tls. 1,500,000 per annum, that the Company was now investing the net surplus earnings of over Tls. 100,000 per month in first-class securities, bearing exceptionally high rates of interest compared with those realised with other British, Colonial, and American institutions. He said that in his experience the rate of interest enjoyed by the China Mutual was at least 2 per cent. higher than other Companies are able to obtain, whose investments are not in the East. Referring to the change in surplus, he showed that the new basis had required a larger reserve by about Tls. 150,000, and yet the Company had been able to show an increase in its net surplus notwithstanding that this amount had been taken out of such surplus and placed to the reserve held for the security of the policyholders. He attributed the Company's satisfactory showing largely to the fact that the company was organized and for some years operated in China at a time when the expenses of conducting the business were, owing to the lack of competition, kept down to a sum far less than is generally expended by a Company writing such an amount of business. He did not think it possible that any local or foreign Company could ever hope to achieve the same results, and that with the statement presented at the meeting in their hands, the Company's

Agents should be able to hold their own against all competition.

The resolution as to approving the Directors' report was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed, and it was seconded by Mr. King, and carried unanimously: That a dividend to shareholders be and is hereby declared at the rate of one tael per share, payable half-yearly on the 1st day of July and the 1st day of August next.

The Chairman proposed, Mr. Lee Yung-kes seconded, and it was carried unanimously: That a vote of thanks be tendered to the medical referees, head office staff, district managers, and agents of the Company. In replying, Dr. Goode referred to the great importance of exercising care in the selection of risks. The Company had had a unique experience, having been the first Company in China to make a speciality of insuring native lives. He considered that the death rate hitherto experienced was very moderate when it was remembered that the field was an entirely new one, and that the Company had absolutely no vital statistics concerning the natives on which to base their rates. Mr. Hughes, however, had informed him that the death rate had not exceeded the amount expected under the standard tables of mortality. As an illustration of the fact that the company is confining its Chinese business to the better classes only, he stated that since the Company's inception, only two deaths had occurred from bubonic plague. This disease, he understood, was confined almost entirely to the lower classes, and he had been informed that other companies operating in China had been by no means so fortunate in this respect.

THE N.D.L. S.S. "ROON."

CAPTAIN'S ACCOUNT OF THE ACCIDENT.

Accidents are so rare to N.D.L. ships that unusual interest is taken in the case of the *Roön*. The Nagasaki agents of the Norddeutscher Lloyd, Messrs. Ahrens & Co., have sent to the local paper Captain Meiner's report of the accident to the *Roön*, as follows:

"We left Nagasaki on May 16th at 9 a.m. Shortly after having left the harbour fog set in which kept on until the afternoon with short intervals and made us slow down several times as well as anchor twice. The Iki channel under these circumstances being too dangerous we set our course westward of Iki. Towards evening the weather cleared and at 8.15 p.m. we were abreast of the northern end of Iki. Later we had, however, again on account of fog, to slow down. At 10.43 p.m. the sound of the steam whistle raised a striking echo. Immediately the engines were set full speed astern, in spite of which the ship struck ground a few minutes after and did not float again. All boats were cleared to take in passengers. The latter were aroused and supplied with life belts. All happened in perfect quiet and quickness. The rumour made public in certain papers that the passengers were agitated is not true.

According to soundings taken immediately after the stranding, only the fore peak and hold No. 1 were making water. There was therefore no immediate danger for the passengers. Towards 2 a.m. on the 17th we heard the fog signals of an approaching steamer which was steering the very same course which the *Roön* had taken. With rockets and blowing of the steampipes this steamer was informed of our position, whereupon she stopped and kept close to us. In the early dawn a boat was sent by the captain to ask whether the steamer could take our passengers. The steamer proved to be the late British s.s. *Stanley Dollar*, bound for Moji. The Captain of the steamer at once consented to take our passengers aboard and to send us all possible aid, the more willingly so because we, as the Captain himself declared, had prevented the *Stanley Dollar* from stranding, which would surely have taken place had he continued on his course a very little while longer.

During the forenoon the passengers were transferred to the *Stanley Dollar* by the ship's boats. Sufficient provisions for 14 days, including several cases of fruit and large quantities of tea and milk, were sent aboard the steamer for the passengers and the Captain ordered the

first officer and 11 stewards to proceed to Moji by the steamer to attend to them. The rumour in certain papers that the passengers suffered from hunger cannot therefore be given any credence. It must be admitted that the *Stanley Dollar* is not a passenger boat and was, therefore, only provided with what was absolutely necessary. We did all in our power to make the short stay of our passengers on the *Stanley Dollar* as comfortable as possible under the circumstances.

After the passengers had been transferred, an attempt was made with tow ropes to re-float the *Roön*, but without avail. As the *Stanley Dollar* wanted to land our passengers as quickly as possible, no further effort was made by her to tow the *Roön* off the rock and at 1 p.m. she started on the voyage to Moji.

On the *Roön* everything possible was done to save the ship. By shifting cargo from the fore part to the after part and filling several compartments in the stern with water, we tried to lift the vessel's bow. Several attempts to get clear with our engines and the dropping of an anchor to help to heave her off were of no avail. The shifting of cargo was continued by the crew by day and night without cessation.

On the 18th inst., lighters arrived from Moji and the mails and passengers' personal effects were taken to Moji by them. At 7 p.m. the S.M.S. *Hansa* appeared and her commander immediately sent hands on board the *Roön* to assist in the shifting of cargo. On the morning of the 19th inst. tow ropes were taken to the *Hansa* and two attempts made to refloat the *Roön*, but the ropes broke each time. Meanwhile, hold No. 6 was filled with water by the salvage steamer *Jura-maru* which had arrived on the scene. Some cargo from the fore hold and a quantity of coal were jettisoned. Towards noon a Japanese cruiser arrived and offered to help. At 6 p.m. the *Roön* suddenly refloated and got clear without aid and steamed to Nagasaki, accompanied by the S.M.S. *Hansa*, arriving here safely on the 20th inst. at 11 a.m.

It may be stated, adds the *Nagasaki Press*, that the stranding is directly traceable to a quite unusual strong turn of the current to the North.

THE SALT INDUSTRY IN CHINA.

Consul-General Ragsdale, representative of the United States at Tientsin, describes the methods of making salt along the northern coast of China. Many tons of impure salt are made each year at different points on the coast of North China, extending from Tongku to Shanhaikwan and Newchwang. The methods employed are the same in each place, and the same have been in use certainly from the time of Marco Polo's famous journey through Eastern China. The salt is made by the evaporation of sea water. The water is pumped into the evaporating basins by wind power and evaporated by the heat of the sun. Extending many miles each way from Tongku the coast is nearly level and only a few inches or feet above high tide. On this flat coast are the salt works. The evaporating basins are made on the flats and have much the appearance of innumerable tennis courts of great size. They are separated from each other by small ridges of mud about 8 inches high. The bottom of the basin is made level and hard-rolled with a stone roller. The basins are filled to a depth of 3 inches with sea water, which is evaporated by the heat of the sun in from one to three days, leaving a coating of salt on the bottom. This is carefully scraped into a pile, and after re-rolling the bottom more water is pumped in. These basins are located about two feet above tide level and in groups, so as to be served by a central pump. The flats are cut in all directions by small canals, giving each group water connection with the main salt yards at the railway station or the river. The salt as fast as it is made is shovelled into small boats, which are pushed through the canals to the main yards, where it is thrown into great heaps and covered with mats, waiting to be sold and packed for the Tientsin market.

The windmills used for pumping the salt water into the basins are most ingenious and of a type met with only in

China, as far as the writer knows. There is a light hexagonal wooden frame fastened to a central post. On this frame are set six small sails of cotton cloth with booms so fastened as to allow them to swing out at an angle of about 45 degrees. To the bottom of the post is attached a horizontal cog wheel which fits into the vertical cogs of a horizontal shaft. The outer end of this shaft works the pump. The pump is of the disk type. There is an endless chain, on which are vertical wooden disks about 5 by 9 inches and 9 inches apart. These disks run in a rectangular wooden trough, 9 inches wide and 5 inches deep, open at both ends. The lower end of the trough is submerged in the salt water and the upper end is above the small ditches which supply the evaporating basins. This trough may be 10 to 20 feet in length, depending upon the height to which the water is to be raised, and has a slope of about 30 degrees. At the upper end of the trough a chain with pulleys around the horizontal shaft of the windmill, and this shaft is provided with sprockets which fit between the disks. With the revolution of the windmill the shaft revolves and the chain with the disks travels up the trough, each disk pushing its complement of water to the top, where it falls into the small ditches and runs off to one or the other of the many evaporating basins. The amount of water pumped depends, of course, upon the speed of the windmill, and is from 1,000 to 5,000 gallons per hour. These mills are erected in groups of three (a small plant) or five (large plant), and there are about 240 mills which feed the collection depots near Tongku. The mills turn out about 750 tons of salt per mill per year. They cannot be operated during rainy or freezing weather and are consequently idle more than half the time. The windmills and pumps are constructed entirely of wood and their action is automatic. They require but little attention and can be repaired by the coolie in charge. About one coolie per mill is sufficient for all the work required in making the salt. The making and selling of salt is a Government monopoly and a most valuable one. The position of salt works of Tientsin is one of the most lucrative Government positions in China. The groups of mills belong to individuals who have purchased a Government permit for their erection. All the salt made must be delivered to the Government collecting stations, for which the maker receives a price just sufficient to keep him at work—about 2 dollars Mexican per ton delivered. At the depot the salt is packed in baskets and mats and well corded, each package weighing about 500 pounds. The cost of this packing is 1 dollar Mexican per ton. The approximate annual production of salt in the Tongku region is 161,000 tons, of which the province of Chihli produces 80,000 tons, the province of Hecan 76,000 tons, and Tientsin and vicinity 5,000 tons.

THE NEW AMERICAN JUDICATURE FOR CHINA.

Now that America has taken steps that will probably end the forensic farces frequent at Shanghai, we may resuscitate an anecdote by no means *mal à propos*.

It is related by an American lawyer of a judge who does not mind deflating an advocate's platitudes when he sees an opportunity. On one occasion, in the court over which this judge presided, a certain advocate was pleading: "As I stand at this bar to-day," he declared, "in behalf of a prisoner whose health is such that he may at any moment be called before a greater Judge than the Judge of this court, I am reminded"—"The counsel for the defence," interposed the judge with great dignity, "will kindly confine himself to the case before the jury, and not permit himself the luxury of invidious comparison."

A recent number of the *Nanfangpao*, the most contained leading article expressing approval of "the way in which German interests are being ousted from Shanghai." Khoochee, it may be still regarded as another Alsace Lorraine by the Chinese, who will never bear any feeling but those of hatred and resentment towards Germany until this place is restored.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Hankow, 30th May, 1906.—Business reported since the 23rd instant is as under:—

	1906.	1905.
Settlements	159,883	133,071
Stock	157,037	128,044

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz. 31st May, 1905.

	1906.	1905.
HANKOW TEA.		
Settlements	105,822	104,714
Stock	157,037	128,044
Arrivals	262,850	232,758
KIUKIANG TEA.		
Settlement	54,161	69,628
Stock	66,504	68,975
Arrivals	121,025	139,598

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkh & Sons' Silk Circular dated Shanghai 26th May, 1906, states:—The Home Markets are quiet. Gold Killing is quoted in London at 13/- and in Lyons at Frs. 38.25. Raw Silks.—Market during the week has been dull, stocks are almost exhausted, and buyers appear disposed to wait the advent of the new crop to fill their requirements. Green Kaihings. Contracts for new silk we hear have been made on the basis of Tls. 5374 for Duck M. Yellow Silks.—Stocks are very small and there is not much enquiry. Hand Filatures.—Considerable speculative activity has been shown during the week in this class of silk the larger portion being in grant reeled filatures. Prices paid mark a further decline in prices of Tls. 10.20 per picul. Steam Filatures.—Parcels of low grade steam filatures in fine and mixed sizes have been taken for the Continent in fair quantities throughout the week. Waste Silks.—We do not hear of any transactions, the prices which are being spoken of for the new crop are quite out of the question compared with home ideas.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 31st May, 1906, states:—Importers and dealers are still anxiously awaiting news from the North that the situation in Manchuria has been relieved, and for that purpose are carefully noting the progress of the small commission of importers who went up from here to investigate. From telegraphic advices they have been to Moukden, have returned to Tientsin, and are expected back via Hankow towards the end of next week. Nothing is known as to the effect of their investigations, but it is understood not to be entirely barren of results. Whether or no it has anything to do with this mission, there are persistent rumours that slightly better news has come down of the market there, and that there are enquiries for certain descriptions of American sheetings. The stock remaining in Newchwang is put down at only 15,000 bales, but the native holders have the idea that, like Tientsin, buyers in the North are holding off in view of the depressed state of the market here, in order to buy at still lower prices. It has been suggested that now is the time for a syndicate to come forward with about three million taels and buy up the stocks of American goods in the hands of weak holders, which can be done at about 20 per cent. below replacing cost, and so save the situation. Unless something of the sort is done the life will be worried out of this market entirely, and a financial panic must result. Meanwhile the increasing dearthness of rice is threatening to cause serious trouble in the near districts to this, and some outbreaks have occurred. This is evidently due to the floods reported in the customs annual returns. This is always considered the slackest season of the year, but never before do we recollect such utter stagnation. There is no buying from stock, no indent business going through, and clearances are shockingly bad. It is said there is a slight enquiry for certain goods, and even for shirtings for Hankow, but the dealers here are so well supplied it is not necessary to call on first hand holders, and so there is no tangible movement in the market, the book being quite devoid of any transactions. News of the home market is becoming scarce, the futility of wasting money over telegrams being quite obvious. Offers of goods from Manchester have only had the effect of raising smiles of derision. Cotton has fluctuated slightly in Liverpool, advancing since our last to 8.20d. for Mid-American, but has since gone back to 8.15d. Egyptian remains unchanged, 10½d. The only news of the New York market

is that Tientsin is buying at full rates for March-April shipment. The auction particulars cover practically the whole of the transactions this week. The only movement of any importance we hear of is the placing of 150 cases Dyed Fancies on account of the manufacturers, the goods having been rejected by the indenter for inferiority. The yarn market continues in the same sluggish state, the Szechuen demand has collapsed for the present owing to suspension of boat traffic. Native cotton is steady, Grey Shirtings.—Prices at Auction do not show much change one way or the other for any weight, and may really be called steady. White Shirtings.—The same remarks may be applied here, prices being in and out, without violent fluctuations. Drills and Sheetings.—We do not recollect the market being in a more lifeless state than it is at present for these goods, they are an absolute drug on the market. Fancy Goods.—These are practically as unsaleable as the plain staples and no indent orders are going forward. The fast blacks at auction show rather more than the usual fluctuations, though on the average there cannot be any great change in values. Turkey Reds were slightly easier. Woollens.—The long continued decline in Camlets appeared to have been arrested, judging by the prices realised at yesterday's auction, but this morning they were weaker again. Long Ells are rather steadier, but Lastings and Spanish Stripes are both without strength. Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—The market seems to be a shade steadier though the demand, such as it is, is confined to the Yangtze markets. There are no special features to note, the margin in prices between Nos. 10s. No. 20s. being still very noticeable. The sales as reported amounted to 1000 bales, but we understand some 3 to 400 bales of the lower count were bought in addition from second hands for Tientsin.

AMOY CUSTOMS RETURNS.

JUNE 2ND, 1906. List of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Customs House from 19th May to 25th May, 4 p.m., 1906:—

GOODS.	QUANTITY.
Cotton, Raw, Indian	pls. —
Native	69
Yarn	689
Shirtings, Grey	pcs. 970
T-Cloths	306
Shirtings, White	493
T. Red Shirting	—
Drills	45
Shirtings Dyed, Brocades	227
Dyed	247
Damasks	—
Camlets	24
Lastings	5
Spanish Stripes	yds. 39
Lustres, Figured	—
Lead, in pigs	pls. —
Tin in slabs	—
Iron, Nail rod	45
Quicksilver	—
Iron, Old	289
Ironwire	10
Rice	21,802
Opium, Patna	—
Banars	50
Persian	—
Malwa	—
Szechuan	56
Yunnan	11
Kiangsu	—
Sesamum Seed	505
Sapanwood	—
Sandalwood	10
Rattans	30
Wheat	2,700
Flour	2,423
Beancake	12,000
Beans and Peas	25,296
Bicho de Mer	21
Mats Tea	pcs. 36,900
Oil, Kerosine American	gal. —
Borneo in bulk	—
Russian	—
Sumatra	—
Bulk	—
Coal	tons. —
Tobacco Leaf	pls. 605
Vermicelli	145

EXPORTS.

GOODS.	QUANTITY.
Sugar, White	pls. 145
Brown	—
Candy	375
Hemp Bags	pcs. 4,000
Sacking	15,350
Paper 1 Quality	pls. 550
II	93
Tobacco, Prepared	35
Kittysols (umbrellas)	pcs. 2,450

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 23rd May, 1906, states:—Gallnuts.—There has been a smart drop in first cost prices which has brought out a number of orders. Cowhides.—The market remains unchanged and there is very little doing. Tobacco.—No business transacted. Feathers.—Demand remains slack and there is very little doing. Cotton.—Market remains steady and for export business prices are quite out of reach. Tallow.—There is very little doing in white veg. tallow as prices are too high to admit of an extensive business being done. Strawbair.—Split, Loyeh and Cordages are about the only goods in the market. For the first two qualities very high prices are asked which, combined with the present rate of exchange, make business impossible. In Tsingtan a good business has again been done in mottled braids at firm prices. Goatskin Rugs.—There is practically no stock left in Shanghai. Wool.—Sheep's.—Market is very firm, the only check to further advance being the U.S.A. duty limit for wools costing over 12 cents.

HANKOW, 30th May, 1906.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 37.00
Do. Seconds	33.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	18.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color	(nom.)
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	8.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or	—
Poochi	11.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayn	10.25
Green China Grass, Szechuen	12.50
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow	—
and/or Maoheng	9.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	9.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	9.00
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	16.20
Do. Plum do.	18.50
Tobacco, Tingchow	9.00
Do. Woukong	10.50
Black Bristles	110.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	(nom.)
Wild Duck	()
Turmeric	3.50
Sesamum Seed	3.90
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	7.80
Tea Oil	10.00

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 1st June.—There has been a good demand for tonnage, particularly from Saigon to Hongkong, resulting in a fair number of charters. From Saigon to this, 14½ cent. last; to Philippines, 28 cents last; to Japan and Java, no inquiry. From north coast Java to Hongkong, 27½ cents for small carriers; to Japan, no inquiry. From Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul last; to Amoy, 30 cents per picul. From Hoilo to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul. Coal, From South Japan coal port to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton last. From Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.25; to Swatow, \$1.50; to Canton, \$1.00 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Morlake—British steamer, 1,737 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
 Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
 Aberlow—British steamer, 2,681 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton.
 Thea—German steamer, 2,199 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.
 Toffi—German steamer, 2,575 tons, Moji, Kuchipotu to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.
 Powhatan—British steamer, 1,640 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.25 per ton.
 Nihdale—British steamer, 2,234 tons, Hongay to Chefoo, private terms.
 Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 917 tons, 3 trips Hongay to Canton, \$2.00 per ton.
 A steamer Hongay to Singapore, \$2.75 per ton.
 Fiume—German steamer, 238 tons, Honkohe to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.
 Cairo—Norwegian steamer, 1,387 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
 Atlantis—American steamer, 959 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
 Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
 Hans Wagner—German steamer, 661 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
 Germania—German steamer, 1,714 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Tin How—British steamer, 1,000 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Tientsin—British steamer, 1,227 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Providence—Norwegian steamer, 693 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Shahjehan—British steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Benthuan—French steamer, 983 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Krusberg—German steamer, 646 tons, Saigon to Gebu, 28 cents per picul.
Jason—Norwegian steamer, 1,135 tons, monthly, 4 1/4 months, \$6,500 per month.
Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$3,500 per month.
Taisan—British steamer, 1,122 tons, monthly, 1 month, \$5,250 per month.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th June, 1906.—A comparatively fair business has been run through during the week under review, chiefly of an investing nature; and although the small demand has not hardened rates, it has at any rate stemmed the incipient weakness which was more or less apparent last week, and the market closes with an unsatisfied small demand for some stocks, and possibly in consequence of the sudden weakness of silver, with a firmer tone than has been apparent for some time. Exchange on London 2 1/4, on Shanghai 72 nominal.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, after a further small sale at \$800, improved to \$810, at which sale were effected. The market closes steady to strong at that rate with no shares on offer; the London rate has improved to £91.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions still remain in request at \$800, but no shares come on the market and we have no business to report. China Traders are also in request at quotation, but shares are scarce and we have no sale to report. Cantons continue on offer at \$360 without finding buyers, and it is probable that a lower rate would be accepted by sellers. The Northern Insurances remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are still wanted at \$905, but we have heard of no sales. Chinas have been placed at \$55 and more are wanted at that price. The stock, however, seems scarce at the moment.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$25, the market closing with probable further seller at that rate, and with buyers at \$24. Indo-Chinas have further declined to \$75 with little or no business. The rate in London, however, has improved to £10. Our local market closes weak with sellers. China and Manilas can be placed at \$20, but no shares are available at that rate. Douglases also could be sold at \$40 were shares obtainable. Shell Transports were in demand in the early part of the week at 27s, but sellers would not part under 28s, and at time of writing the weaker exchange has caused stoppage of buying orders and the market closes quiet at 27s. Star Ferries remain unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue quite neglected, and we have heard of no business. Luxons are also to all neglected.

MINING.—Further than a continued demand for Banks at quotations we have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks remain neglected, and even at the reduced rate of \$160 no buyers come forward, and we have no business to report. New Amoy Docks have been placed at \$18 but close with sellers at that rate. Shanghai Docks have ruled fairly steady at Tls. 115, but close rather weaker at Tls. 114. Kowloon Wharves remain neglected at \$103 without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have found buyers at \$118 and Humphreys' Estate at \$112. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have declined to Tls. 72, further than this we have nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have changed hands at \$890 and \$9 closing steady at the latter rate. Green Islands have been

placed at \$283 and \$284, closing steady at the latter rate. Watsons have found further buyers at \$134 and Powells at \$103. We have nothing further to report.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	\$125	\$810, sales
National B. of China		London, £91
A. Shares	25	\$39
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$71, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$64, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$101
China Provident	\$10	\$9
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 72
Hongkong	\$10	\$15, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 65
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 74
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$103, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$100, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$18, sales & sel.
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 114
Shanghai & H. Wharf ..	Tls. 100	Tls. 225
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$22, sellers
G. Island Cement.	\$10	\$28, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$235
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$130, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$24, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$29, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat ..	\$10	\$9
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$300, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$85, sales & buy.
China Traders	\$25	\$98, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$305, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 85
Union	\$100	\$800, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$175
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$118, sales
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$111, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$39
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 116
West Point Building ..	\$50	\$53
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$450, nominal
Raub.	18/10	\$24, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$51
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$165, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$20, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$24, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$75, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	\$27, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30
Do. New	\$5	\$21
Shanghai & H. Dyeing ..	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$32
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10, sales & sel.
Watkins	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sales & buy.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 31st May, 1906, states:—The market has been very dull during the last week and there is no movement of special interest to report. The Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. held a meeting on the 29th and formed a subsidiary Co. called the Kalumpung Rubber Co., Ltd., with a view to raising funds for extending the area planted with rubber on the Estate. This movement has had a good effect and the shares are now quoted at Tls. 105 cash. Indo-Chinas fell from Tls. 65 for the July settlement to Tls. 60, but we know of no reason for this fall. Banks.—No business reported. Hongkong quotes \$835 sellers. The latest London quotation is £90. The T.T. rate on London is 2/11. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. Shares are slightly firmer on the small business, the quotation being Tls 115/116 cash and Tls. 121/122 July. Shanghai and Bangkok Wharves remain steady, business being reported at Tls. 333 cash, Tls. 227/228 June, Tls. 227/230 July and Tls. 232/ August. A fair number of shares have changed hands at Tls. 235 September. Shipping.—A sharp fall has taken place in Indo-Chinas from Tls. 65 to Tls. 60 July, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Tugs remain steady at quotations. Sugars.—Paraks Sugars are in demand at Tls. 105 cash. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—There have been no transactions reported. Industrial.—No operations reported during the week in cotton mill shares, but Ewos and Loou-kung-mows have been offering at prices which did not suit the purchasers. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. A fair business has been done and rates remain steady. Quotations have been made at Tls. 232 cash, Tls. 237 May, Tls. 237, 240, 235 June, and Tls. 235 and Tls. 237 July, closing with buyers at the latter rate. Sumatras are steady at Tls. 72 cash. Pulps. A single transaction is reported at Tls. 150 June. Ices. A fair number of shares have changed hands at Tls. 28. Stores and Hotels.—Astor House Hotel Shares have been dealt in at \$31 and \$31 1/2, Hall and Holtz at \$22, Centrals at \$18 and Lane Crawford & Co. at \$150. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have changed hands at Tls. 64, and there are sellers at this rate. Mercury Shares are wanted at Tls. 47. Loans and Debentures.—Municipal 6 per cent. debentures have fallen to Tls. 96.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 11th June.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	2 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2 1/4
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2 1/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2 1/4
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2 1/4
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	264 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	268 1/2
ON GERMANY.—On demand	215 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	5 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	5 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	157 1/2
Bank, on demand	157 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	157 1/2
Bank, on demand	157 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	7 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	7 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	102 1/2
ON MANILA.—On demand	102 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	11 1/2 p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	126 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	21 p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	21 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9 45
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$40 10
BAR SILVER, per oz.	\$30 1/2

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports, 40/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) Tea 33/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland) Tea 34/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Shanghai Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.00 to 1.50 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

June—

ARRIVALS.

1. Falk, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
1. Falk, Norwegian str., from Karsten.
1. Hatching, British str., from Coast Ports.
1. Karin, Swedish str., from Chinkiang.
1. Kweiyang, British str., from Chetoo.
1. Liangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.
1. Progress, Norw. str., from Pulo Laut.
1. Quilts, German str., from Swatow.
2. Australian, British str., from Australia.
2. C. F. Laeisz, German str., from Hamburg.
2. Dagny, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
2. Earl of Garrick, Brit. str., from Newcastle.
2. Helm, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
2. Laeisz, British str., from Saigon.
2. Phayon, French str., from Saigon.
2. Signal, German str., from Bangkok.
2. Tean, British str., from Manila.
3. Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
3. Changsha, British str., from Australia.
3. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
3. China, American str., from S. Francisco.
3. Hanol, French str., from Haiphong.
3. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Y. hama.
3. Kwangtshai, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
3. Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., from Sydney.
4. Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
4. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
4. Helene, German str., from Swatow.
4. Hongkong, British str., from Straits.
4. Jason, British str., from Shanghai.
4. Kutang, British str., from Calcutta.
4. Phrasang, German str., from Bangkok.
4. Pomatun, British str., from Hongay.
4. Rubi, British str., from Manila.
4. Tean, British str., from Chinkiang.
4. Yensang, British str., from Manila.
5. Acon, British str., from Sydney.
5. Amigo, German str., from Iloilo.
5. Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
5. Elax, British str., from Palembang.
5. Ella Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
5. Greenwich, British str., from Mororan.
5. Harundo, Norw. str., from Kuchino-su.
5. Helmdal, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
5. Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
5. Hulchow, British str., from Tientsin.
5. Kashing, British str., from Tourane.
5. Lian, British str., from Wuhu.
5. Minnesota, American str., from Seattle.
5. Talkosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'ohinotsu.
5. Tean Maru, Japanese str., from Bombay.
5. Zieten, German str., from Hamburg.
6. Aldershot, British str., from Saigon.
6. Choyshang, British str., from Chinkiang.
6. Daiji Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
6. Hallan, French str., from Pakhoi.
6. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
6. Li Ta, French str., from Sabang.
6. Monmouth, British cruiser, from London.
6. Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
6. Shaoching, British str., from Shanghai.
6. Stentor, British str., from Liverpool.
7. Atlanta, German str., from Bangkok.
7. Atlantis, American str., from Saigon.
7. Benmhr, British str., from Shanghai.
7. Chiynon, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
7. Glenogla, British str., from Singapore.
7. Peik, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
7. Progress, German str., from Kowloon.
7. Sithonia, German str., from Shanghai.
7. Thistle, British gunboat, from Devonport.
7. Tean, German str., from Moji.
7. Volts, British str., from Soe-Soe.
7. Yangmeo, Korean str., from Kuchinotsu.
8. Appalachee, British str., from Shanghai.
8. Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
8. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
8. Kangpin, Chinese str., from Wuhu.
8. Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
8. Shahjehan, British str., from Singapore.
8. Taming, British str., from Manila.
9. Gonzales, Amr. str., from Iloilo.
9. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
9. Japan, British str., from London.
9. Shaoching, British str., from Iloilo.
10. Apurida, German str., from Pakhoi.
10. Clara Jahan, German str., from Bangkok.
10. Fama, German str., from Hon. Cohe Bay.
10. Lightship, British str., from Calcutta.
10. Mackay, German str., from Bangkok.
10. Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
10. Pratt, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.

June—

DEPARTURES.

1. Ambria, German str., for Kobe.
1. Apurida, German str., for Pakhoi.
1. Chow'si, German str., for Bangkok.
1. D-vawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
1. Glenek, British str., for Shanghai.
1. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
1. Ivo Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
1. Loongang, British str., for Manila.
1. Marie, German str., for Hongay.
1. Nithsdale, British str., for Hongay.
1. Progress, Ger. str., for Kwangchowwan.
1. Tjismah, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
1. Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
2. Arroyo, British str., for Newcastle.
2. Eastern, British str., for Australia.
2. Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
2. Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
2. Maidaura Maru, Jap. str., for Amoy.
2. Oceana, British str., for Europe.
2. Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
2. Teleschus, British str., for Saigon.
2. Zaffro, British str., for Manila.
3. Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.
3. C. F. Laeisz, German str., for Hamburg.
3. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
3. Hatching, British str., for Coast Ports.
3. Hans Wagner, German str., for Saigon.
3. Ilford, British str., for Batavia.
3. Kohichang, German str., for Bangkok.
3. Mathilde, German str., for Niplojask.
3. Pitannok, German str., for Bangkok.
3. Simongan, Dutch str., for Saigon.
3. Tain, German str., for Kobe.
3. Vanadis, Norwegian str., for Newcastle.
4. Australian, British str., for Moji.
4. Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
4. Nazohang, British str., for Iloilo.
4. Cheo-gahing, British str., for Tientsin.
5. Chihli, British str., for Shanghai.
5. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
5. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
5. Haubi, French str., for Haiphong.
5. Jason, British str., for London.
5. Keohgwai, German str., for Bangkok.
5. Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
5. Meifoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
5. Mongolia, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
5. Rain, Norwegian str., for Rajang.
5. Tean, British str., for Manila.
6. Aragonia, German str., for Portland.
6. Elax, British str., for Shanghai.
6. Helene, German str., for Hoihow.
6. Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
6. J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
6. Helm, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
6. Prometheus, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
6. Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
6. Zieton, German str., for Shanghai.
7. Arrat on Apoor, British str., for Calcutta.
7. Benmohr, British str., for Kohichang.
7. Falk, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
7. Helmdal, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
7. Jason, Norwegian str., for Vladivostok.
7. Signal, German str., for Haiphong.
8. Anglo-Saxon, British str., for Yokohama.
8. Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
8. Fausang, British str., for Shanghai.
8. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
8. Hue, French str., for Kwangchowwan.
8. Kweiyang, British str., for Newchwang.
8. Lita, French str., for Shanghai.
8. Luchow, British str., for Saigon.
8. Phuyon, French str., for Saigon.
8. Rajput, British str., for Sourabaya.
8. Sithonia, German str., for Hamburg.
8. Tientsin, British str., for Saigon.
8. Tean Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
8. Woolwich, British str., for Salina Cruz.
8. Yuenchang, British str., for Manila.
9. Changsha, British str., for Yokohama.
9. Haimun, British str., for Amoy.
9. Kwangtshai, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
9. Lydia, German str., for Shanghai.
9. Mortlake, British str., for Samarang.
9. Phrasang, German str., for Bangkok.
9. Progress, Ger. str., for Kwangchowwan.
9. Rubi, British str., for Manila.
9. Stentor, British str., for Vanc. aver.
9. Walshing, British str., for Shanghai.
10. Daiji Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
10. Derwent, British str., for Swatow.
10. Ella Rickmers, Ger. str., for Singapore.
10. Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
10. Glenogla, British str., for Amoy.
10. Tungahing, British str., for Shanghai.
10. Voluts, British str., for Singapore.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. Walter Austin, Rev. Robert Brown, Mr. W. J. Bennett, Mrs. Hartford Beaumont, Messrs. B. M. Caldwell, F. G. Glascock, Mr. and Mrs. Chan C. Cohn, Mr. H. D. Cooke, Mrs. B. F. Darnley, Miss C. Danford, Mr. V. E. Dudley, Capt. Ehrhardt, Mr. Jas. Fugate, Mrs. Ethel Gordon, Miss Ethel Greaves, Miss B. M. Gertch, Messrs. S. Glasgow, F. H. Halton, Mrs. L. E. Hinchman, Capt. S. M. Hibbard, Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Lowenstein and infant, Mrs. Matson, Mrs. Nault, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Perkins, Miss Zella Robinson, Mr. W. C. Read, Mr. and Mrs. Sestier, Mr. G. Schultz, Lieut. J. H. Thompson, Messrs. E. A. Stinespring, A. J. White, A. C. Warn and S. B. Mohley.

Per *Zieten*, for Hongkong from Genoa, Messrs. G. Tomlin and P. Kindler, from Naples, Consul Playfair, Rev. Maier and Dr. E. Victor, from Colombo, Mr. E. Schaefer, from Penang, Prince Reus, Messrs. Peacock and F. Zahn, from Singapore, Messrs. E. Haslett, J. Thompson, C. Sansom, D. Barry, W. Cooper and Dr. Hindmann.

DEPARTED.

Per *Mongolia*, for San Francisco, &c., Capt. H. Leonard, Miss Cora Richards, Mr. and Mrs. N. Post, Mr. L. E. Penniman, Miss E. B. Gibbs, Messrs. R. B. Drala, Raleigh Dawne, Mrs. C. Harris, Mrs. M. J. Duham, Rev. and Mrs. J. Peill, Mr. A. G. Hoosain, Viscount Makino, Mr. D. Hatano, Mrs. W. B. Hamilton, Master Allan Hamilton, Mrs. M. B. Crooke, Messrs. C. Humphreys, A. Boyd, Mrs. M. Floral, Mr. E. Barnard, Miss B. H. Gertsch, Rev. Robt. E. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cohn, Miss C. L. Daoford, Capt. S. M. Hibbard, Messrs. J. Fugate, B. M. Caldwell, A. J. White, Miss Gallagher, Messrs. W. J. Bennett, P. E. Dudley, D. J. M. Sim, H. D. Joos, U.S.N., Lieut. J. H. Thompson, U.S.N., Messrs. O. C. B. Wimbush, Henry Curtas, Mr. and Mrs. Lowenstein and infant, Major S. A. Wolf, U.S.A., Mrs. S. A. Wolf, Messrs. W. Austin, R. J. Tobin, Mrs. M. E. Matson, Mrs. N. J. Nault, Mr. Perlheffer.

Per *Oceana*, from Shanghai, for London, Mrs. Knasburg, Messrs. Parslow, Hugh Roxburgh, Everett, E. E. Hart, Thos. G. Kingston, Hillier, for Marseilles, Mr. Robt. Rugg, for Bombay, Capt. A. Archdale, Capt. W. S. Lyaed, Mr. Fox, for Colombo, Mr. C. B. Pollock, for Brindisi, Mr. A. E. Costanzo, for Singapore, Hon. Mr. Baring, from Kobe, for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McDougall, Miss Alice Dougall, Miss Annie Dougall, Master Eddie Dougall, Rev. Archibald Ewing, from Yokohama, for Marseilles, Mrs. A. Moss, Mr. J. A. Walker, for London, Mr. J. E. Yates, from Hongkong for London, Mr. and Mrs. E. Davenport, Inspector J. Gauld, Messrs. J. R. Johnson, W. Bennett, E. H. Collayshaw, James Ellis and D. H. Cameron, for Gibraltar, Lieut. and Mrs. N. A. de Mira Godinho and family, for Marseilles, Mr. A. Grawn, for Colombo, Mr. W. F. Staratoun, for Penang, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Harrop, Mrs. Ramsay, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Luddy, Capt. W. G. Blanford.

Per *Eastern*, for Australia, &c., Messrs. Adriano, T. E. Barnett, A. Beckett, Mrs. Bray, Mr. J. Costa Cabral, Sgt. J. Caldeira, Mr. W. Campbell, Misses J. and M. Day, Miss Douglas, Mr. H. J. Everall, Dr. M. de Foussea, Mr. M. Hussain, Miss Lyla, Mr. A. Magathia, Sgt. A. Manhao, Mr. and Mrs. McKie and children, Mrs. Moore and children, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Morris, Messrs. J. Pereira, A. Pereira, A. Sigdeira, Lieut. H. E. Silva, Messrs. F. J. Sousa, J. B. Suter, Miss Trudinger.

Per *Zieten*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Pereira, Mr. and Mrs. Gerson, Miss Ramothos, Miss Hartwig, Insp. Koehler, Messrs. Alex. Ross, W. Barr, Silva, J. D. Craig, H. Nethercott, J. J. Sherida, B. A. Martin and J. Schott, for Nagasaki, Mrs. Oshio, Mrs. Harp, Mr. Simpson, for Kobe, Mr. J. G. Glascock, Miss Matsumaga, Messrs. Nawa and Kawano, for Yokohama, Messrs. O. Spach, A. J. Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. Gutierrez.

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